




Wall Street Tumbles on Global Slowdown Fears

Raul Rodriguez sweeps the floor of the New York Stock Exchange after the close of trading, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. The Dow Jones industrial average fell to 16,459.75, and ended down 3.1 percent on Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 64.84 points, or 3.2 percent, to 1,970.89.


(AP Photo/Richard Drew)



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North Korea warns of war with South after artillery fire

**ERIC TALMADGE
HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Friday declared his front-line troops in a “quasi-state of war” and ordered them to prepare for battle a day after the most serious confrontation between the rivals in years.

South Korea's military on Thursday fired dozens of artillery rounds across the border in response to what Seoul said were North Korean artillery strikes meant to back up a threat to attack loudspeakers broadcasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda.

The spike in tensions prompted the U.S. and South Korea to briefly halt an annual military exercise that began this week, U.S. defense officials said Friday. North Korea had criticized the drills, calling them a preparation for invasion, although the U.S. and South Korea insist they are defensive in nature.

The North's declaration Friday is similar to its other warlike rhetoric in recent years, including repeated threats to reduce Seoul to a “sea of fire,” and the huge numbers of soldiers and military equipment already stationed along the border mean the area is always essentially in a “quasi-state of war.” Still, the North's apparent willingness to test Seoul with military strikes and its recent warning of further action raise worries because South Korea has vowed to hit back with overwhelming strength should North Korea attack again.

Pyongyang says it did not fire anything at the South, a claim Seoul dismissed as nonsense.

Kim Jong Un ordered his troops to “enter a wartime state” and be fully ready for any military operations starting Friday evening, according to a report in Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. The North has also given Seoul a deadline of Saturday evening to remove border loudspeakers that, after a lull of 11 years, have

started broadcasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda. Failure, Pyongyang says, will result in further military action. Seoul has vowed to continue the broadcasts. The North's media report said that “military commanders were urgently dispatched for operations to

casts began after South Korea accused the North of planting land mines that maimed two South Korean soldiers earlier this month. North Korea denies this, too.

Authoritarian North Korea, which has also restarted its own propaganda broad-

as. South Korea responded with dozens of 155-millimeter artillery rounds, according to South Korean defense officials.

South Korea's military warned Friday that North Korea must refrain from engaging in “rash acts” or face strong punishment,

South doesn't tear down its loudspeakers by Saturday evening. Observers say the North may need some save-facing measure to back down.

This is what happened in December 2010, when North Korea backed off an earlier warning of cata-



South Korean army soldiers stand guard at Unification Bridge near the border village of Panmunom in Paju, South Korea, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. South Korea fired dozens of shells Thursday at rival North Korea after the North lobbed several rounds across the world's most heavily armed border and threatened to take further action unless Seoul ends its loudspeaker broadcasts. The North denied it fired any shots and warned of retaliation for what it called a serious provocation.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

attack South Korean psychological warfare facilities if the South doesn't stop operating them.”

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified government source, reported Friday that South Korean and U.S. surveillance assets detected the movement of vehicles carrying short-range Scud and medium-range Rodong missiles in a possible preparation for launches. South Korea's Defense Ministry said it could not confirm the report.

North Korea said the South Korean shells fired Thursday landed near four military posts but caused no injuries. No one was reported injured in the South, either, though hundreds were evacuated from front-line towns.

The loudspeaker broad-

casts, is extremely sensitive to any criticism of its government, run by leader Kim Jong Un, whose family has ruled since the North was founded in 1948. The loudspeaker broadcasts are taken seriously in Pyongyang because the government does not want its soldiers and residents to hear outsiders criticize human rights abuses and economic mismanagement that condemns many to abject poverty, South Korean analysts say.

North Korea on Thursday afternoon first fired a single round believed to be from an anti-aircraft gun, which landed near a South Korean border town, Seoul said. About 20 minutes later, three North Korean artillery shells fell on the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Kore-

according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

South Korea raised its military readiness to its highest level. Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Jeon Ha-kyu told a televised news conference that South Korea is ready to repel any additional provocation.

Escalation is a risk in any military exchange between the Koreas because after two attacks blamed on Pyongyang killed 50 South Koreans in 2010, South Korea's military warned that any future North Korean attack could trigger strikes by South Korea that are three times as large.

Many in Seoul are accustomed to ignoring or discounting North Korea's repeated threats, but the latest have caused worry because of Pyongyang's warning of strikes if the

strophic retaliation after South Korea defiantly went ahead with live-fire drills near the country's disputed western sea boundary. A month earlier, when South Korea staged similar drills, the North reacted with an artillery bombardment that killed four people on a South Korean border island. North Korea said it didn't respond to the second drill because South Korea conducted it in a less provocative way, though the South said both drills were the same.

The rivals also were at odds over the annual U.S.-South Korean military drills that began Monday. U.S. defense officials said the exercise had been halted amid the growing tensions with North Korea, but the Pentagon later said the exercise had resumed. □



France: 2 Americans subdue gunman on high-speed train

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A gunman opened fire on a high-speed train traveling from Amsterdam to Paris on Friday, wounding two people before two American passengers subdued him, officials said.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, speaking in Arras in northern France where the suspected was detained, said one of the Americans was hospitalized with serious wounds. Their names were not immediately released.

Philippe Lorthiois, an official with the Alliance police union, said on i-Tele that the two Americans were soldiers. In Washington, the Pentagon said it "can only confirm that one U.S. military member was injured in the incident. The injury is not life-threatening."

A White House official told reporters that President Barack Obama was briefed on the shooting, and said, "While the investigation into the attack is in its early stages, it is clear that their heroic actions may have prevented a far worse tragedy."

Contrary to early reports, Lorthiois said the attacker did not fire his automatic



Police officers work on a platform next to a Thalys train at Arras train station, northern France, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. A gunman opened fire with an automatic weapon on a high-speed train traveling from Amsterdam to Paris Friday, wounding three people before being subdued by two American passengers, officials said. French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, speaking in Arras in northern France where the suspected was detained, said one of the Americans was hospitalized with serious wounds. (AP Photo)

weapon but wounded one man with a handgun and the other with a blade of some kind.

The suspect is a 26-year-old Moroccan, according to Sliman Hamzi, an official with the police union Alliance, who spoke on French television i-Tele. Investigators from France's special anti-terror police are leading the investiga-

tion, a spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office said.

"As always where an act that could be terrorist in nature is involved, the greatest care and the greatest precision will be used," Cazeneuve said.

Cazeneuve said the two Americans "were particularly courageous and showed great bravery in

very difficult circumstances" and that "without their sangfroid we could have been confronted with a terrible drama."

A third person, French actor Jean-Hugues Anglade, suffered a minor injury while activating the train's emergency alarm, Lorthiois said.

The attack took place at 1545 GMT while the Thalys

train was passing through Belgium, according to a statement from the office President Francois Hollande. Hollande said he's spoken with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, and the two leaders pledged to cooperate closely on the investigation.

A young woman said on i-Tele that she was in the carriage next to the one which the gunman struck. "I wouldn't call it a fusillade, because even in the next wagon we didn't hear any shots," said Margaux, who declined to give her last name. She said passengers remained "relatively calm," and some showed no concern until police boarded the train.

Europe's major rail stations, such as Paris' Gare du Nord and Brussels' Gare du Midi, are patrolled by soldiers armed with rifles, but passengers can board most high-speed trains without passing through metal detectors or having their bags searched.

One exception is the Eurostar between Paris and London. Passengers on those trains must pass through a metal detector and have their bags scanned as well. □

White House: No. 2 IS leader killed in US military airstrike

D. SUPERVILLE

H. HENDAWI

Associated Press

OAK BLUFFS, Massachusetts (AP) — The No. 2 leader of the Islamic State militant group was killed in a U.S. military airstrike in Iraq earlier this week, the White House said Friday.

Ned Price, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali was traveling in a vehicle near

Mosul, in northern Iraq, when he was killed Tuesday.

As the senior deputy to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, al-Hayali was the primary coordinator for moving large amounts of weapons, explosives, vehicles and people between Iraq and Syria, where IS militants control vast amounts of territory.

Al-Hayali oversaw the Islamic State in Iraq, where

he planned operations during the past two years, including an offensive the group launched in Mosul in June 2014. He was a member of al-Qaida in Iraq, the predecessor group to the Islamic State.

Also killed in Tuesday's airstrike was an Islamic State media operative known as Abu Abdullah.

Price characterized al-Hayali's death as a blow to the organization because

his influence spanned finance, media, operations and logistics for the group. But his removal from the scene is unlikely to affect IS operations or weaken the group and will most likely lead to even tighter security and secrecy around al-Baghdadi, whom Iraqi intelligence officials say has mostly kept out of sight since he was wounded in an Iraqi airstrike near the Syrian border.

The Islamic State leader uses hand-delivered mail to communicate with leaders of the group, shunning the use of more traceable telephones or email. He has recently, according to the officials, brought to his inner circle former fellow inmates from his time at the U.S.-run detention facility known as Bucca in southern Iraq, where he was held nearly 10 years ago. □



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Momentum for Iran deal grows as NY lawmaker declares support

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran won an important

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Nadler has announced he is backing President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal. Nadler says in a statement on Friday that the agreement "gives us the best chance of stopping Iran from developing a nuclear weapon." (AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke)

endorsement Friday from Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, who bucked opposition from fellow New York Jewish lawmakers including his home state's senior senator, Chuck Schumer.

Nadler's endorsement followed a personal appeal from Obama, who sent him a letter earlier this week defending the deal and pledging that the U.S. will continue to put economic pressure on Iran and keep military options open.

"I bring to my analysis the full weight of my responsibilities as a member of Congress, and my perspective as an American Jew who is both a Democrat and a strong supporter of Israel," Nadler said in a statement. He said he'd concluded that of the alternatives, the agreement "gives us the best chance of stopping Iran from developing a nuclear weapon."

The deal seeks to keep Iran from building a nuclear bomb in exchange for bil-

lions in international sanctions relief. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is vehemently opposed to the agreement.

"In our conversations, Jerry raised specific concerns relating to Israeli security and the U.S. commitment to countering Iran's destabilizing activities in the region," Obama said Friday. "I wanted to respond to the thoughtful questions Jerry raised, and I am pleased that our discussions were ultimately productive."

Nadler's announcement comes at the end of a week that's seen the deal pick up a steady stream of Democratic support in the House of Representatives and Senate despite furious opposition from Republicans who say it makes too many concessions to Iran and could actually enable that country to go nuclear. Congress faces a vote next month on a resolution disapproving of the deal, but Obama will veto such legislation if it prevails. Congressional Republicans would then need to gather two-thirds majorities in both the House and the Senate to overturn Obama's veto, a steep bar that even Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says Republicans are unlikely to overcome.

Obama's letter to Nadler also said the U.S. would uphold sanctions targeting Iran's non-nuclear activities, such as its support for Lebanon's Hezbollah and what Obama called Iran's "destabilizing role in Yemen." □

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Autopsy: Suspect killed by St. Louis police was shot in back

JIM SUHR

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An autopsy showed that an 18-year-old who was shot and killed by an officer helping serve a search warrant in a violence-plagued neighborhood died from a single wound in the back, police said Friday.

The shooting occurred less than two weeks after violence marred the anniversary of the day Michael Brown was fatally wounded by a white officer in nearby Ferguson — a killing which sparked protests and a national debate over police treatment of minorities.

St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson cautioned that the location of Mansur Ball-Bey's wound neither confirms nor disproves two officers' accounts that Ball-Bey pointed a gun at them before they shot at him Wednesday. Dotson said Thursday that a stolen handgun linked to Ball-Bey — with one round in the chamber and 13 more in the magazine — was found at the scene.

"Just because he was shot in the back doesn't mean



St. Louis police chief Sam Dotson, left, appeals for calm alongside mayor Francis Slay at West Side Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis. An autopsy showed that an 18-year-old who was shot and killed by an officer helping serve a search warrant in a violence-plagued neighborhood died from a single wound in the back, police said Friday. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

he was running away," Dotson told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "What I do know is that two officers were involved and fired shots, but I don't know exactly where they were standing yet and I won't know until I get their statements."

Police haven't released the

full autopsy or toxicology tests yet, and have not explained why they don't yet have statements from the officers. Dotson, unreach-

able Friday by The Associated Press, has pledged a thorough internal investigation. "We have a policy that's strong, a process

that's strong," he told the AP. "There's strong third-party review, and we want to make everything above reproach."

Messages left with the Ball-Bay family's attorney, Jermaine Wooten, were not immediately returned. Wooten has insisted to media outlets that Ball-Bay was not armed when he was shot.

The law gives police officers latitude to use deadly force when they feel physically endangered. The Supreme Court held in a 1989 case that the appropriateness of use of force by officers "must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene," rather than evaluated through 20/20 hindsight.

Officers have been cleared in cases in which suspects were shot in the back, including the St. Louis killing nearly a year ago of black 18-year-old VonDerrit Myers Jr. by Jason Flanery, a white, off-duty officer. □

NY Police: Man shoots security guard, self at a federal building

JAKE PEARSON

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man walked into a federal building in New York City late Friday afternoon and opened fire, wounding a security guard in the head, before turning the gun on himself, police said.

The unidentified man died in the building in Manhattan, police said.


The man walked through a side entrance of the building around 5 p.m. and shot the security guard in the head, New York Police Department Chief James O'Neil said. The man then walked through the security area and headed to an elevator, where he encountered another employee, O'Neil said. The man then shot himself in the head. The guard was taken to a

hospital; his condition was not immediately known. Police said the motive for the shooting remained unclear.

The federal office building on Varick Street houses an immigration court, passport processing center and a regional office for the Department of Labor. The guard had a weapon but it doesn't appear he was able to fire, according to police.

O'Neil, speaking at a news conference at the scene, said it appeared the shooter acted alone. He said nothing gave police any reason to believe the shooting was terrorist-related.

Employees at the building said they were told to get down on the ground when the shots rang out. A short time later, the building was placed on lockdown and then evacuated. □




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Florida woman says she secretly recorded Jared Fogle



Former Subway pitchman Jared Fogle leaves the Federal Courthouse in Indianapolis following a hearing on child-pornography charges. A Florida woman says Fogle told her years ago about his interest in having sex with minors and that she went to authorities who told her to record the conversations. (AP Photo/AJ Mast)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A Florida woman says former Subway pitchman Jared Fogle told her years ago about his interest in having sex with minors and that she went to authorities who told her to record the conversations.

Rochelle Herman-Walrond, a former journalist, told media outlets she wore a wire to record conversations of Fogle, who agreed Wednesday to plead guilty to allegations that he paid for sex acts with girls as young as

16 and received child pornography produced by the former director of his charitable foundation. It is unclear how Herman-Walrond knew Fogle. The Associated Press could not reach her for comment. Authorities in Indiana who

handled the investigation into Fogle would not confirm whether she was involved in their case, but they have said their investigation began several months ago based on a tip to Indiana State Police regarding Russell Taylor, the then-executive director of the Jared Foundation. However, Fogle's plea agreement does mention that witnesses in Florida, Georgia and Washington state provided recordings and information it says show Fogle "repeatedly discussed with them his interest in engaging in commercial sex acts with minors or stated that he has done so in the past." It says the recordings "were produced beginning in or about 2007 and continuing thereafter."

The suburban Indianapolis man is expected to enter a formal plea at a later date to one count each of traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor and distribution and receipt of child pornography. The case has destroyed Fogle's career with Subway and could send

him to prison for more than a decade.

Herman-Walrond told WWSB-TV in Sarasota, Florida, that she recorded her conversations with Fogle for the FBI over more than four years. The FBI in Florida did not return requests for comment. FBI Special Agent Wendy Osborne in Indiana said the agency cannot discuss "anything related to the investigation" into Fogle.

Herman-Walrond said she didn't know why Fogle would have confided in her.

"He would tell me the ages he was interested in, boy or girl," Herman-Walrond told ABC News. "He indicated the fact that he has done it before and told me in gross detail what transpired."

Fogle attorney Ron Elberger declined to comment on the reports.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven DeBrotta said he cannot confirm the names of any sources the government used in its investigation, including the witnesses who provided the recordings. □

Police: Man who beat homeless Mexican said 'Trump was right'

BOSTON (AP) — The Mexican government condemned an attack on a sleeping homeless man that police said was committed by two brothers, one of whom said that Donald Trump was right about deporting "all these illegals."

The brothers urinated on the 58-year-old man, punched him and beat him with a metal pole while he slept near a Boston train station, police said.

Daniel Hernandez Joseph, the consul general of Mex-

ico in Boston, confirmed the victim was a Mexican citizen. He said his government would "take the necessary measures to defend the rights and interests of Mexicans." The Boston Globe reported.

The brothers, Scott Leader and Steve Leader, were being held without bail on charges including assault and indecent exposure. They pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses flagged down a state trooper at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday after they saw the attack

and then saw the Leaders walk away laughing, prosecutors said. The victim was treated for a broken nose, serious bruises and other injuries.

Scott Leader told troopers after his arrest, "Donald Trump was right, all these illegals need to be deported," according to a state police report filed in court. Trump, a Republican presidential candidate, has inflamed Latinos by describing Mexican immigrants as "criminals" and "rapists" and saying he would build

a wall between the United States and Mexico to crack down on illegal immigration. He recently said he would deport the millions of people already in the United States illegally, sort them into groups of "good ones" and "bad ones" and then allow those deemed good to re-enter the country.

Asked about the homeless man's beating before a New Hampshire town hall on Wednesday night, he said he hadn't heard about it.

"I think that would be a shame," he said, but declined to condemn the attack. "I will say, the people that are following me are very passionate. They love this country. They want this country to be great again. And they are very passionate."

He took a harder-line approach on Friday.

"Boston incident is terrible. We need energy and passion, but we must treat each other with respect," Trump tweeted Friday afternoon. □

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Topless, painted women ignite latest furor over Times Square

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Topless women, often in body paint, posing for photos in Times Square are causing headaches for New York politicians and police who wish to regulate their presence but have no clear idea how.

Frustrated politicians would like to regulate the presence of the women and the many costumed characters such as Elmo and Cookie Monster who populate the plaza. But they have no clear idea how.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo says he believes the women are engaging in an illegal activity that harkens to the "bad old Times Square."

And Mayor Bill de Blasio this week formed a task force to look at how to regulate "aggressive solicitation."

The experience of millions of tourists "has been diminished by the proliferation of topless individuals and costumed characters who too often harass people and expose families to inappropriate acts," the mayor said.

City officials have already brainstormed solutions that include licensing those who troll for tips or pushing them out of the square. But the city and the Times Square Alliance, which regulates

activity there, have so far taken only one step: posting notices and handing out flyers informing visitors that tips are not an obligation. Legal experts say the quandary is whether the activity amounts to a street performance protected by the First Amendment or a form of commercial activity that can be regulated. There's nothing illegal in New York City about going topless (with or without body paint), parading around in a furry costume or even begging for money in most places.

"There's no clear legal path to address this issue," says New York-based civil rights attorney Ron Kuby. "It's hard to take two things that are legal — being bare-breasted and begging for money — and turn them into something illegal."

Police can do little to curb the behavior someone complains of assault or harassment.

Last year, a Spider-Man figure in the same area punched a police officer trying to prevent aggressive solicitation, and a man dressed as Cookie Monster attacked a 2-year-old child whose parents had not tipped. Police Commissioner William Bratton told 1010 WINS radio Thursday that he's looking into the labor practices of the char-



A tourist poses for a photo with two women clad in thongs and body paint in New York's Times Square. Topless women posing for photos in Times Square are causing headaches for politicians and law enforcement who wish to regulate their presence but have no clear idea how.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

acters, residency requirements and whether taxes were being paid.

Nicole and Angel Bunting are part of a threesome of friends who work the south end of Times Square, approaching pedestrians with smiles and keeping a polite distance. Pointing at the other end of the square,

Bunting acknowledged that a small group of topless women working there display the kind of in-your-face behavior that is drawing negative attention.

"Some of the girls are maybe a little more aggressive, but we do not work that way," Bunting, 32, said. "We wouldn't want some-

body touching us. We also wouldn't want somebody touching our child. Absolutely not."

Nicole said she used to work in music management but lost her job and couldn't find other work in the weak jobs market. "And this is what I found. And now I love it." □



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Greek election looms as parties struggle to form government

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece's main opposition party launched efforts to form a new government Friday following Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' resignation, but made no progress in what appears a doomed task — which will pave the way for another potentially destabilizing election.

Tsipras resigned late Thursday and called an early election next month to deal with a rebellion in his radical left Syriza party over the terms of Greece's new bailout deal.

Although no date has been set, outgoing government spokeswoman Olga Gerovassili said Friday she expects Greeks will go to the polls on Sept. 20.

The opposition has few chances of uniting and forming a government, meaning that after more than five years of a worsening financial crisis, Greece is headed for its fifth national election in six years. Tsipras is widely tipped to win the vote, though if he fails to secure an outright



Outgoing Greek Prime minister Alexis Tsipras arrives at the headquarters in Athens, on Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. Greece's president asked the main opposition party Friday to try to form a new government, a day after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras resigned and called an early election next month to deal with a governing party rebellion over Greece's third bailout deal. (Costas Baltas/ InTime News via AP)

majority he could have to seek a new coalition.

His decision to call a vote so early — just hours after Greece started tapping loans from its 86 billion euro (\$95 billion) rescue program — amounts to a bet that he can regain power

with a new government that would not be hobbled by internal dissent.

The rebels announced Friday they were splitting to form their own anti-austerity movement.

They want to scrap the bailout altogether, argu-

ing that the budget savings and reforms Tsipras agreed to for the bailout are exactly what they had vowed to fight when they came to power with Syriza in January.

About one in four Syriza lawmakers refused to back the

bailout's ratification in parliament last week, which was only approved with backing from opposition parties. Faced with such dissent, it became only a matter of time before Tsipras called an election or confidence vote to confirm his mandate to implement the bailout reforms.

Some analysts are concerned that the election could delay reforms needed to get rescue loans, which are only disbursed after quarterly reviews.

"A September election would occur before the first program review in October and may well hamper and delay the technical work and political decisions necessary for its completion," said the Fitch ratings agency.

"The likely pause in legislating for reforms during the election campaign coming so soon after the agreement was concluded may rekindle or reinforce some creditors' concerns about Greece's ability to meet the program's requirements," Fitch said. □

Turkey's Erdogan says he will call a new election for Nov. 1

SUZAN FRASER

Associated press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday that the nation will hold an early election Nov. 1, after no group won a majority from voters in June and Erdogan's party was unable to find a coalition partner. Erdogan said he will meet with the parliament speaker on Monday, the day after the deadline for forming a new government, to complete the formalities.

The widely expected announcement comes days after Prime Minister Ahmet

Davutoglu abandoned efforts to build a coalition government, following the failure of talks with the leaders of two smaller parties. The ruling party lost its parliamentary majority in June for the first time since it came to power in 2002, forcing it to seek a coalition alliance.

The June result was a slap to Erdogan's ambitions to increase the powers of the largely ceremonial presidency. He is believed to have favored a new election, and Turkey's main opposition leader has accused the president of

obstructing the coalition-building efforts, a charge Erdogan denies.

Erdogan appears to be betting that a new ballot could revive the fortunes of the Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, or AKP, he founded and led for more than a decade, and thus put him back on course to reshape Turkey's democracy into a system where the president would have executive powers. A coalition government would also have limited his ability to influence the government.

But a new election held just

five months after the last polls may not alter the distribution of seats too much and a majority for the ruling party is far from guaranteed.

News of the new election comes amid escalating violence between Turkey's security forces and Kurdish rebels, and as Turkey is taking a more active role in the U.S.-led campaign against Islamic State group extremists.

Dozens of people have been killed in renewed clashes between Turkey's military and rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or

PKK. Last month, Turkish jets raided IS targets in Syria and PKK targets in Iraq while U.S. jets also launched their first airstrikes against IS targets from a Turkish air base near Syria.

Opponents have accused Erdogan of attacking the PKK in a bid to win nationalists' support and discredit a pro-Kurdish party, whose gains in the June elections deprived the ruling party of its majority.

The political uncertainty caused the Turkish lira to drop to record lows against the dollar this week. □



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6 killed in Syria after Israel retaliates for rocket attack

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Israeli airstrikes in southern Syria killed six people and wounded seven, Syrian state TV reported Friday, in retaliation for a rocket attack on Israel the previous day that Israeli officials blamed on militants backed by Iran.

Four rockets exploded in an open field in northern Galilee on Thursday. There were no injuries but it was the first time since the 1973 Mideast

war that rockets from Syrian territory have slammed into Israel. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Syrian state TV said an Israeli drone strike on Friday targeted a "civilian car" close to a busy market in the village of Kom, killing five people. Ahmad Sheikh Abdul-Qader, governor of the southern region of Quneitra, said the attack happened on the road leading to the village of Khan

Arnabeh, near Kom, and destroyed the car.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks the country's war, said the five dead were members of the pro-government National Defense Forces. It did not elaborate.

Syrian state TV also said an Israeli air raid overnight in Quneitra killed a soldier and wounded seven.

The Israeli military did not comment on the reported

casualties but said it carried out a raid Friday morning on "part of the terror cell responsible for the rocket fire at northern Israel."

Also Friday, Israel submitted a demarche to the United States and five other nations that negotiated last month's Iran nuclear deal, blaming Tehran for Thursday's rocket attack from Syria. The rare diplomatic action comes as Israel is increasingly at odds with its U.S. ally over the nuclear

deal.

In the demarche, Israel said it has "credible information that the attack was carried out by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad" and "was facilitated and directed by an Iranian operative."

Since the rocket fire, Israel has named Saeed Izaadhi, who it says heads the Palestinian division of Iran's elite Quds Force, as having orchestrated the attack but has produced no evidence to back that claim. □

Iraq's top cleric says 'battle' for reforms must continue

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's top Shiite cleric urged the government on Friday to press ahead with reforms and fighting corruption, but cautioned against doing so at the expense of the fight against the Islamic State group, which is tenaciously holding on to large swaths of Iraqi territory.

In a sermon delivered by a representative, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani urged the government to continue the reforms and swiftly go after the "big thieves of public funds."

Hours after the sermon in the holy city of Karbala, thousands rallied in Baghdad and a string of other



Protesters chant in support the Shiite spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in the poster, during a demonstration in Basra, 340 miles (550 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. Thousands rallied in Iraq's capital and a string of other cities to press demands for reforms, better services and an end to corruption.

(AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

cities to press demands for reforms, better services and an end to corruption. The rallies were the latest in a series of peaceful gatherings over the past month demanding change.

Baghdad's rally attracted up to 10,000, many waving Iraqi flags and chanting the national anthem. The rallies in the southern city of Basra, in Karbala and Najaf, also south of the Iraqi capital, were smaller. In Baghdad, hundreds of army and police cordoned off the rally, sealing off roads leading to the venue, the central Tahrir Square, as army helicopters hovered above. □

Aid group makes dramatic plea after 65 killed in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A leading international aid group on Friday made a dramatic appeal to Yemen's warring factions to halt attacks on civilians, a day after heavy fighting in a key city killed more than 65 people and wounded at least 23.

Doctors Without Borders also said it was unable to

reach the hospitals in Taiz, Yemen's third largest city, where fighting intensified on Thursday.

"We call on the warring parties to stop attacking civilian targets, especially hospitals, ambulances and densely populated neighborhoods and allow medical personnel and humanitarian organizations

to provide assistance," the aid group, also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres or MSF, said in a statement. Yemeni security officials said the violence in Taiz began with Shiite rebels, also known as Houthis, first shelling residential areas and killing 23 civilians. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they

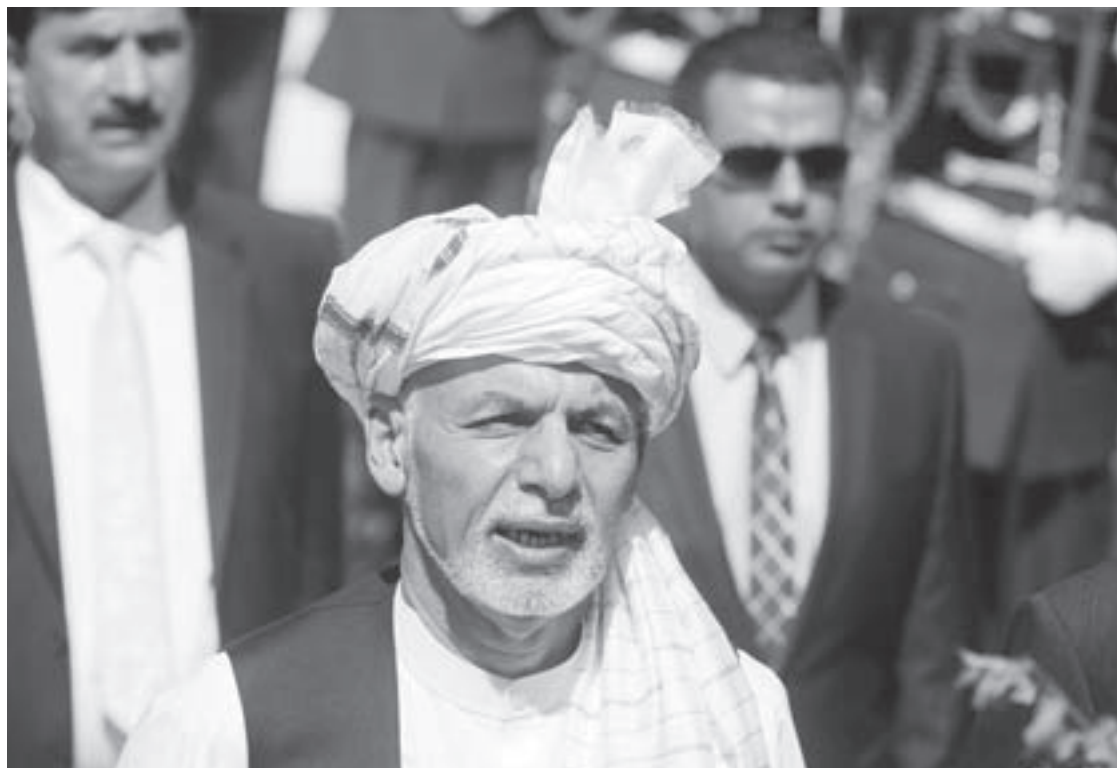
were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The shelling provoked airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition, which has been targeting the Houthis since March, when Yemen's crisis escalated amid the rebel advance and land grab. The subsequent airstrikes killed at least 35 people and demolished five houses

in the eastern neighborhood of Sala, from where the rebels launched their attacks earlier Thursday, the officials added.

Among those killed, at least 17 were children and 20 were women, according to Doctors Without Borders, which added that more than 65 people were killed in Taiz on Thursday. □

Afghan ties with Pakistan sour as Taliban gain strength



Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani sings the national anthem after putting flowers on the "Independence Minaret" monument during an Independence Day ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan. While leaders of the Afghan Taliban meet to resolve the leadership turmoil that has engulfed the group since their one-eyed leader Mullah Mohammad Omar was revealed to be dead, Afghanistan's relationship with Pakistan is deteriorating at a dangerous juncture in the war.

LYNNE O'DONNELL
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One of the world's testier strategic relationships is deteriorating by the day as Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of meddling in its affairs and prolonging a 14-

year war by aiding Taliban militants in a cynical quest for influence. Pakistan, which hosts masses of Afghan refugees, denies the charge and says it cannot be expected to monitor the movement of Afghan militants back and

(AP Photo/Massoud Hossaini)

forth across border regions barely under the control of Islamabad.

This has been a longstanding issue between the two neighbors but a recent uptick in stridency is striking — and dangerous at a time when the Taliban seem to grow more militant and NATO has pulled its combat troops from Afghanistan.

It also represents a reversal

of the relatively optimistic outreach that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani launched when he took office a year ago.

The relentless continuation of Taliban attacks — and the surge in violence that followed the transfer of security control from NATO to Afghan forces at the end of 2014 — seems to have exhausted Ghani's patience.

After a series of deadly attacks earlier this month in the Afghan capital, Ghani accused Pakistan on live TV of being the source of the violence in his country.

"The decisions the Pakistani government will be making in the next few weeks will significantly affect bilateral relations for the next decades," Ghani said at the time. "We can no longer tolerate watching our people bleeding in a war exported and imposed on us from outside."

Amid the rhetoric, the basic facts are not in dispute: leaders of the Taliban have been based in Pakistan — in Quetta, Peshawar and Karachi — since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 toppled their regime and forced them to flee.

Recent events also have made clear the extent of Pakistan's influence over

the group. Taliban leaders direct the war from Pakistani soil, and send gunmen and suicide bombers, weapons and money across the border every year for the Taliban summer offensive. This year, the warm-weather offensive has been particularly ferocious, following the NATO drawdown.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul, Syed Abrar Hussain, was summoned to hear a complaint about border shelling, Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Shekib Mostaghni confirmed.

A day later — on Afghan Independence Day — Afghan Ambassador Janan Mosazai was summoned by Pakistan's foreign ministry, where he heard a protest about a "recent spate of Afghan government's allegations and media campaign to malign Pakistan," a ministry statement said.

The "allegations undercut mutual confidence and affect the environment of bilateral relations that both countries had been working hard to improve," said Pakistan's foreign secretary, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudry.

Continued on Page 27

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UN decries 'impunity' after Darfur violence

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — U.N. human rights officials say Sudanese security forces that were allegedly involved in killings, sexual violence and other abuses in Darfur last year have largely gone unpunished.

The U.N. Human Rights Office, in a critical new report based on information from a joint U.N.-African Union operation in Darfur, documented 411 cases of alleged violations and abuse by all parties and said "very few" ended in arrests or investigations.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said the report pointed to "the systemic failure, or outright refusal, by the authorities

to take human rights violations seriously."

The report released Friday denounced violations of international law including "indiscriminate" aerial bombardment of civilian areas, burning of villages and destruction of other civilian property.

It pointed to a "negligible" impact of steps by Sudan's government to reduce impunity, and listed 15 recommendations to the government such as a halt to aerial bombing, granting of access to areas of human rights incidents, and strengthening judicial impartiality. Its five recommendations for rebel groups included refraining from violence against civilians, cooperating with investigators and participat-

ing in peace initiatives.

Darfur has been in turmoil since 2003, when ethnic Africans rebelled, accusing the Arab-dominated Sudanese government of discrimination. The United Nations says 300,000 people have died in the conflict and 2.7 million have fled their homes.

The report noted an upsurge in violence after Sudanese forces deployed in Darfur in February 2014. According to the report, the joint A.U.-U.N. operation documented 127 cases of sexual, gender-based violence with more than 200 survivors, but found only 12 of those cases went to court.

Authorities have repeatedly cited a climate of impunity over Darfur. □



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Thailand seeks US help to find Bangkok bomber, raises reward



Doves are released for peace at the Erawan Shrine at Rajprasong intersection, the scene of Monday's bombing, in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. Somber horns sounded Friday at the site of Bangkok's deadly bomb blast as officials joined a multi-religious ceremony for victims of this week's attack, the latest effort to show that the bustling capital was respectfully, if cautiously, moving on.

(AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

N. ANUSONADISAI
J. GECKER

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand raised a reward Friday for tips leading to the arrest of the main suspect in Bangkok's deadly bombing and turned to the United States for help in tracking down those behind the attack that left 20 people dead.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said he had received offers of assistance from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and had assigned his deputy "to cooperate on borrowing equipment that includes facial-recognition technology."

Prayuth, however, ruled out working with U.S. investigators, insisting Thais can do the job.

"It won't be necessary to cooperate on the investigation with U.S. officers," Prayuth told reporters. "We need to help ourselves."

Four days after the explosion at the revered Erawan Shrine, at one of the capi-

tal's busiest intersections, there were few solid leads into the perpetrators of the attack that also left more than 120 injured.

Police were still searching Friday for the prime suspect seen in a security video dropping off a backpack near a bench at the site about 15 minutes before the blast, a day after clearing two other men seen in the video who were initially believed to be suspects.

National police chief Somyot Poompanmoung told reporters that police were looking for a woman wearing a black shirt who appeared in the footage, seated near the suspect. He noted she was not considered a suspect but could have valuable witness testimony, if police could find her.

"We don't even know who she is," Somyot said. When asked if any persons of interest would be called in Friday, he said, "No."

After being criticized for sending confusing messag-

es, authorities appeared more guarded in their statements. Military spokesman Col.

Winthai Suvaree said on television that the police were making "much progress" but that he could not disclose any details.

Police have released a sketch of the suspect — depicting him with eyeglasses and bushy, black hair — and offered a reward that on Friday was raised to 3 million baht (\$85,000), Somyot said.

On a police arrest warrant he is described as a "foreign man," although a military spokesman said Thursday that a connection to international terrorism seemed unlikely.

Somyot had signaled the need for facial recognition

technology to help speed the investigation.

"There are automatic machines that can detect 100 people within 5-6 seconds," Somyot said Thursday.

"Making people sit and do the job would take all day." The U.S. Embassy confirmed that it had offered to help Thai authorities but declined to give specifics, citing the ongoing investigation.

"The Embassy in Bangkok has informed Thai authorities that we stand ready to assist with the investigation as needed," said embassy spokeswoman Melissa Sweeney.

"We will continue to consult closely with local authorities regarding the attack and will provide assistance as appropriate." □

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Body of American who fell from cruise found off Roatan

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Authorities in Honduras say the body of a U.S. tourist who fell from a cruise ship has been found in waters near the island of Roatan. Tourism Institute press director Emilio Silvestri identified the tourist as 65-year-old Carol Ann Dimas and says she fell from the ship after it left Roatan en route to the Cayman Islands. He did not release her hometown. He said the incident took place 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the Honduran island, which is popular with foreign tourists. Silvestri said the navy and Red Cross searched for five hours without finding Dimas, but then employees of Miami-based Carnival Corp., which owns the cruise ship, found the floating body Thursday.

Haiti officials to redo voting in 25 districts: report

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian election authorities say they will redo voting in 25 districts due to violent disruptions that marred legislative elections earlier this month. At a Thursday news conference, leaders of the Provisional Electoral Council announced they would redo first round voting in over 15 percent of Haiti's constituencies Oct. 25. That's when all the other districts will be voting in the first round of Haiti's presidential election and the second round of local elections. Eighteen percent of voters showed up Aug. 9 at polling stations across Haiti, where turnout is historically low during legislative contests. Council Deputy Mosler Georges said they had preliminary results of the first round and those results will stand. They told reporters to review their website for the election breakdown, but the site was down. □

Mexico's first lady returns mansion after scandal

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — First lady Angelica Rivera has returned the \$7 million mansion she bought from a firm that won lucrative contracts with the administration of President Enrique Pena Nieto, Mexico's Public Administration Department said Friday.

The department's head also said that neither the president nor his wife had incurred in any conflicts of interest. But the investigation headed by Virgilio Andrade apparently consisted largely of asking government employees whether they had steered contracts to the firm, and critics have questioned Andrade's independence because he was appointed by the president himself.

After a scandal erupted in 2014 amid news reports about the property, Rivera said in November that she was buying the house from the company on monthly payments with money she earned as an actress. The company was to hold title to the mansion until it was paid off.

Rivera said she would sell her rights to the property after questions arose about the president's relationship with contractor Grupo Higa.

The mansion was built by



Mexico's first lady Angelica Rivera arrives at Los Pinos presidential residence, in Mexico City. Rivera returned the \$7 million mansion she bought from a firm that had won lucrative contracts with the administration of President Enrique Pena Nieto, Mexico's Public Administration Department said Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

one of contractor's subsidiaries.

Just days before the news reports surfaced, Pena Nieto's government canceled a high-speed rail contract that had been granted to the sole bidder, a consortium that included Constructora Teya, another Grupo Higa company.

Competitors complained the bidding process had been rushed.

Andrade said Friday that Rivera had reached an agreement with the Grupo Higa subsidiary to pay about \$635,000 (10.5 million pesos) in rent for the nearly three years she used the property.

The company agreed to return about \$875,000 (14.5 million pesos) she had made in payments on the mansion.

Andrade said the investigation showed that Rivera had bought the house before Pena Nieto took office in December 2012, and that there was no evidence that Pena Nieto intervened to steer contracts to the company. "The investigation shows that my wife's conduct as well as mine were clearly according to the law," Pena Nieto said later Friday.

The president did, however, recognize that Mexicans had lost confidence in the government that will not be won back with speeches. Pena Nieto offered "a sincere apology" to Mexicans upset by what he called "interpretations" of the irregularities.

Doubts have surrounded Andrade's investigation, in part because of his lack of independence; Pena Nieto appointed him in February to investigate his own administration.

Andrade's investigation apparently consisted largely of asking Pena Nieto's office if he intervened in awarding contracts, and asking 111 government employees if anyone had pressured them into awarding contracts. □

Brazil:

Leader of lower house denies corruption charges

STAN LEHMAN

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The speaker of Brazil's lower house of congress on Friday strongly denied newly filed charges of corruption and said he won't resign from office.

Attorney General Rodrigo Janot filed the charges Thursday against Chamber of Deputies speaker Eduardo Cunha and former President Fernando Collor, who is now a senator. Janot said the two men took part in the sprawling corruption scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras in which billions in bribes were allegedly paid.

In a meeting with union leaders in Sao Paulo on Friday, Cunha said there was not "the slightest chance" he will resign as speaker of the house. "I have done nothing wrong and they have no evidence against me," Cunha said.

"Resignation has never been, or will it ever be, part of my vocabulary," he added.

On his Facebook page, Cunha said, "My conscience is clear and I will continue as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies with same candor and independence of always."

Prosecutors said in a statement that Cunha is ac-

cused of accepting \$5 million in bribes between 2006 and 2012 in connection with the construction of two Petrobras drilling ships. He is charged with corruption and with money laundering. No details in the case against Collor were made public. The prosecutor's office said that was because it is based on accusations from an active informant and revealing details could jeopardize the investigation.

Collor told Brazilian media on Thursday that he was not guilty of any wrongdoing.

In the early 1990s, Collor became Brazil's first freely

elected president in nearly three decades after a military dictatorship. But he resigned in 1992 just before the Senate impeached him over allegations he received millions from a slush fund run by his former campaign treasurer.

The charges against the two men have been filed with the Supreme Court, which must now decide whether they will go on trial. Under Brazilian law, charges against federal congressmen and other top government officials can only be filed and judged by the Supreme Court, which can take years to rule on such cases. □



Aruba's Hollywood Smokehouse featured in USA Today's Travel Special

EAGLE BEACH – Recently, Aruba's only authentic smokehouse, the Hollywood Smokehouse, was featured in a special travel edition of USA Today highlighting some of the best happy hours from bars/restaurants throughout the Caribbean. Hollywood Smokehouse was the only bar/restaurant to make the list from Aruba:

"Making a big splash on Eagle Beach northwest of the capital city of Oranjestad, Hollywood Smokehouse is the only authentic smokehouse on the island. America meets Aruba, the owners are from North Carolina and the craft cocktails are made with local ingredients like the juice from the aloe plant that grows everywhere on the island.

Happy Hour is a small window from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. but worth the pit stop for two-for-one tequila 'Aruba Aloe' drinks, 'Farmer's Moon' in an old time blue mug filled to the brim with Carolina Moonshine, ba-



sil and a piquant kick of jalapenos and 'Ginger Fizz' with vodka, blueberries and ginger beer invit-

ing in an old time mason jar. The fruity drinks pair real well with low-and-slow brisket or pulled pork piled



high on Southern-style red and white gingham-lined plates. Thursday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. it's a special Happy Hour 'meat and greet' when pints and pitchers are on sale and the house band 'Blackberry Jam' rocks the house." "We are thrilled to receive more international recognition for what we are doing here at Hollywood Smokehouse," said local owner Michael Bislick.

"Our authentic low-and-slow barbecue is served with traditional southern side dishes, but we also

have a contemporary, on-trend edge, offering lettuce wraps, taco wraps, and healthy salads."

The restaurant's craft cocktails and herb-infused liquors (they grow their own herbs right on the patio at the restaurant) have been featured in several international television programs. The Hollywood Smokehouse, located near Eagle Beach at the Alhambra Casino & Shops, is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5pm to 10pm, and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 10pm. □



'The King is Coming' & 'The Door' will be exhibited at Cas di Cultura

ORANJESTAD - Aruban local artist, Sandra van der Linde, gives an explanation of her last two paintings: "I can paint a lot, but I do not just paint for painting, I paint only what I have to paint. Regarding "The King is coming" & "The Door", they are visions and experiences in my Spirit to paint. Since 2014 November I saw a lion roaring with power and authority as a King.

I did not feel ready yet to paint it because December was approaching. So I decided to leave it for the next year. I looked at several photos of wild lions as model, but I could not get one that I liked at that time. I decided to wait a while. Meanwhile I have given several workshops of painting and during those workshops; I saw that many of my students wanted to paint lions and tigers. To me



inside and out and I could not hold the majestic splendor and power that came out of there. In the dream I said three times: "Oh, this is not a galaxy! This is the door of heaven". I woke up very shocked, wondering what it was. Then I decided to paint exactly what I saw. But considering that I traveled a lot and saw many more galaxies, tunnels and new stars, I decided to try and paint some more on my last painting. If you ask me the goal of painting

my dreams and visions, I do not really know yet! But I realized that painting some dreams and visions, I received from God, they managed to touch the heart of many people, as a confirmation that God is a living and real God. Right through my paintings, many people got answer to their questions waiting long time. There was also confirmation of the faithfulness of God personally, for many. All this I do as an act of obedience to God, and I paint what God shows me to paint."

"I take this opportunity to invite everyone to come and see one or more of my latest paintings. This will be possible in an exhibition of visual art of various participants who painted beautiful paintings in my workshops. Today we can consider them as local artists. The exhibition is in charge of the foundation "Muchila Creativo" and "Sound the Alarm", Saturday 22 and Sunday August 23, 2015 at Cas di Cultura, from 6 to 9 pm."

Admission is free. □

it was more than obvious that the signal was approached to paint "The King is Coming". But I still could not get the lion of my vision. The painting shows (my interpretation of) the Kingdom of God established here on earth. A King, who will come soon.

My most recently painting, "The Door" is a dream that changed my life completely. It is the reflection of a dream I had in July 2011. In this dream I saw a galaxy two times in the same dream. I saw it from



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AWD Restaurant Week at Tango:

Presenting a Sumptuous, Sizzling Three-Course Meal!

PALM BEACH - During the third annual Restaurant Week the chefs of the restaurants of the Aruba Wine And Dine group are showcasing tantalizing menus, hereby tempting new and repeat guests and introducing a scala of interesting and mouthwatering dishes for one amazingly low price for a three-course menu. With accumulated Fun Miles the price is even lower! Today we put Tango Argentine Grill in the Arawak Garden in the spotlight.

Guests at Tango Beach get to choose between appetizers Lobster Bisque or a Skewer of Chorizo before selecting their entree. The entree choices are fourfold: Filet Mignon, Mahi Mahi, Tango Ribs or the Spicy Chicken, which is served with onions, peppers and mushrooms with rice and a teriyaki sauce. The other main courses come with fresh vegetables and house potatoes. Dessert is either a Caramel Flan, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream in the flavors vanilla, chocolate or strawberry.

The wine special at Tango during the Restaurant Week is Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc by the glass and by the bottle at prices that will have you doing the Tango!

The AWD Restaurant Week is held from August 26 until September 2 – participating restaurants are: Salt & Pepper, Fishes & More, Tango Argentine Grill, Café the Plaza, Hadicurari and MooMba Beach.

Bon appétit! ☐



Family Baldwin Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice family whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Yvonne Baldwin, and their daughter Sarah Baldwin, from Pinckney, Michigan. Loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club, this beautiful family is here with their chil-

dren having a great time in Aruba, and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and the safety. They say Aruba feels like a second home and that the employees at the Marriott Surf Club are like a family to them and the Resort is



paradise. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel and Ms. Nadia Dabboussi representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family members of the honorees and Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt, representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

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ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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MLB, players' union announce domestic violence policy

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball can suspend players with pay when legal charges are pending in "exceptional cases" under a new domestic violence policy signed Friday.

The 13-page deal signed Friday by the league and players' association, which followed a series of high-profile domestic violence cases involving NFL players, allows the baseball commissioner to issue discipline for "just cause," the same standard used under the sport's collective bargaining agreement. Discipline is not dependent on a criminal conviction.

"Major League Baseball and its Clubs are proud to adopt a comprehensive policy that reflects the gravity and the sensitivities of these significant societal issues," Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "We believe that these efforts will foster not only an approach of education and prevention but also a united stance against these matters throughout our sport and our communities."

The commissioner can place a player accused of domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse on paid "administrative leave" for up to seven days before a disciplinary decision, which can be appealed to the sport's arbitration panel, chaired by an independent arbitrator. The commissioner also may defer a discipline decision until the resolution of criminal charges.

Suspensions that are upheld are without pay, and there are no maximum or minimum penalties.

Continued on Page 19

RARE TIGER SIGHTING



Woods shares lead after two rounds at Wyndham

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the 16th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.

Associated Press
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Woods claims share of lead at Wyndham after shooting 65

JOEDY McCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) —

Tiger Woods signed up for his first Wyndham Championship knowing a win would definitely keep his season from ending. He's halfway there.

Woods shot a 5-under 65 on Friday to share the second-round lead with rookie Tom Hoge.

"I'm only at the halfway point," Woods said. "Only 36 holes. We've still got a long way to go."

Woods and Hoge were at 11-under 129. Hoge shot a 67.

The sport's biggest name put himself in prime position to contend for his first victory in more than two years, one that would send him into the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Woods followed his best round since 2013 — a first-day 64 — with one almost as good.

He made his big move up the leaderboard on the back nine, with birdies on Nos. 12 and 13 and an eagle on the par-5 15th that gave him a share of the lead.

"I just couldn't get anything out of my rounds (before this tournament) and a couple lucky bounces here, take advantage of those opportunities — it's just the flow," Woods said. Now he'll spend Saturday playing with an unfamiliar rookie. When asked if he would recognize Hoge to see him, Woods responded: "No, I wouldn't. What is it, or him?"

"I look on the Champions Tour leaderboard and I know every one of those guys because I played against them and I played with them," Woods said. "Now I come out here, I don't really know a lot of



Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the 17th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

people."

Davis Love III and Chad Campbell were a stroke back. Campbell shot 65, and the 51-year-old Love had 66.

Brandt Snedeker matched the tournament record with a 61 that put him in a group of six players two strokes behind Woods and Hoge.

But for the second straight day, the big story at Sedgefield Country Club was Woods.

He missed the cuts in the last three majors and hasn't finished better than a tie for 17th at the Masters. At No. 187 on the FedEx Cup points list, he would definitely crack the top 125 with a win and qualify for the Barclays next week in New Jersey. Depending on how the math works out, a solo second-place finish also might be enough.

He took advantage of some prime scoring conditions during the first round, shooting that 64 on a course softened by showers that morning. That left him two strokes off the lead. And then, playing under a hot afternoon sun that sped up those undulating greens, Woods almost matched it.

"I wasn't quite as sharp as I was yesterday," he said. He capped that run of consecutive birdies with a 25-foot putt on the 13th that drew a mighty roar from the huge gallery.

Then came his eagle. He placed his second shot about 10 feet behind the hole and, after his downhill putt fell into the hole, he followed with his trademark fist pump.

And as strong as his round was, it also easily could have been even better.

He settled for birdie on the par-5 fifth when his 10-foot eagle putt lipped out, then missed a 15-foot birdie putt on the next hole.

He left a 10-foot birdie putt an inch from the hole on the ninth.

"I've shot 59 and I left a couple shots out there," Woods said. "The great thing about golf, you can always get a little bit better."

Love, a former University of North Carolina player whose two wins in the tournament came across town at Forest Oaks Country Club, played a practice round with Woods on Tuesday. Several times this week, Woods has referred to pointers Love gave him, notably

Love reeled off three straight birdies early in his round before closing with 10 straight pars.

"It will look boring on the card ... but I made some nice putts for par, and some good up and downs, and kept the round together," Love said.

Hoge, who was born about 70 miles away in Statesville but grew up in North Dakota, shared the first-round lead with William McGirt and two-time heart transplant recipient Erik Compton.

Hoge, who had two top-10 finishes in the past month, followed his opening-round 62 with another low number with birdies on three of his final five holes.

"Obviously, a new position for me," Hoge said.

Snedeker — who won the Wyndham in 2007, its last year at Forest Oaks — shot just the fifth 61 in the history of the event and the first since Tim Herron three years ago.

He finished his round with back-to-back birdies on the eighth and ninth holes, closing by sinking a 50-foot putt.

"I was trying to shoot 7 under in my mind, get back in the mix, and to shoot 9 (under) was definitely something I wasn't expecting on the range this morning, but great to get it," Snedeker said.

For some players, the priority was to earn enough points to qualify for the playoffs or keep their tour card for next year.

Luke Donald, at No. 124 on the points list, made the cut of 3 under. So did No. 129 Camilo Villegas — the defending champion — and No. 125 Charl Schwartzel.

For others, their bubbles burst: No. 131 Billy Hurley III, who came to Greensboro the day after his father's funeral in an attempt to secure his card, shot a 70 and missed the cut. □

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Domestic Violence

Continued from Page 17

Players will not receive service time for the period of the suspension.

Players can be suspended with pay in "exceptional cases" while criminal charges are pending if the commissioner determines "allowing the player to play during the pendency of the criminal or legal proceeding would result in substantial or irreparable harm to either the club or Major League Baseball." If the discipline becomes an unpaid suspension, the player has the right to offset the time served against the penalty but must repay any salary he received from his team during the paid suspension.

The deal creates a joint policy board to provide treatment, which could include mandatory counseling and psychological evaluation. Three experts will serve on the board along with two members appointed by MLB and two by the union,

and one of the experts will submit a proposed treatment plan to the full board for approval. Players who fail to comply with their treatment plan may be subject to discipline.

"Players are husbands, fathers, sons and boyfriends. And as such want to set an example that makes clear that there is no place for domestic abuse in our society," players' union executive director Tony Clark said in the release. "We are hopeful that this new comprehensive, collectively-bargained policy will deter future violence, promote victim safety, and serve as a step toward a better understanding of the causes and consequences of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse."

Previously, the labor contract included a voluntary treatment program for certain alcohol-related and off-field violent conduct. It also allows the commis-



In this March 17, 2015, file photo, Tony Clark, executive director of the baseball players' union, talks to reporters before a spring training baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Washington Nationals in Lakeland, Fla.

sioner or a team to impose discipline, but didn't say of what sort, if a player was charged with a crime "involving the use of physical force or violence, including but not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence,

resisting arrest, battery, and assault."

Following the decision by Alex Rodriguez to have outside lawyers of his choice handle the arbitration of his drug suspension two years ago, the agree-

ment includes a provision that the player and union can be represented "only by in-house counsel of the players' association and/or by outside counsel appointed by the players' association." □

Associated Press

Allyson Felix 'disappointed' she can't run 200-400 double

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Training-wise, Allyson Felix thinks she's fit enough to run the 200 and 400 meters at the world championships.

Timing-wise, the schedule just doesn't work out. It's a situation that irks the usually stoic American sprinter, who qualified in both events but will focus only on the 400 in Beijing.

Here's the dilemma: The semifinals of the 200 — her signature event and the one she captured gold at the 2012 London Olympics — is on Thursday, with the 400 final to follow 65 minutes later. No way for Felix to recover that quickly.

"I was disappointed," Felix said Friday, a day before the start of the worlds. "I wish we would've been allowed the opportunity to really go after it."

"It was a really difficult decision. I felt like I was in shape that I could do both, but not with the schedule." More bad news: Probably



United States' Allyson Felix responds to a question during a news conference before the upcoming World Athletic Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

won't be possible next year at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, either. The tentative schedule is for the first round of the 200 to begin on the day of the 400 final. Those races are only 75 minutes apart.

Time isn't on her side.

"I would love to have the opportunity to have the choice to be able to do it,"

said Felix, who may elect to double in the 100 and 200 like she did for the London Games. "I guess it's something we have to see."

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said Friday the schedule remains flexible. Such a switch wouldn't be unprecedented.

American sprint great

Michael Johnson campaigned for a rearrangement of the 200 and 400 events before the 1996 Atlanta Games. He got his wish and became the first male to win both at the Olympics. "The Olympic program has been defined in principle, but if we have a special case where we can help an athlete, we would still be ready to discuss," Bach said. "It would have repercussions on others. Have to see if it would be possible or not. I can't tell you what the outcome of such a discussion would be." IAAF President Lamine Diack said the matter will be taken under consideration, but "if we want to accommodate each and every single athlete, it will be very difficult."

Felix didn't run the 200 at the U.S. championships in June since she already had a bye into the event at the worlds courtesy of her 2014 Diamond League title. She only ran the 400 and breezed to the title.

In years past, she may have opted to run the 200 at the worlds and skip the 400. But she elected to dabble in an event she's still learning to run. "I'm excited for the challenge," said the 29-year-old Felix, who is coached by Bobby Kersee. "I'm looking forward to going out there and putting my best foot forward."

Things didn't exactly go well for Felix at the worlds two years ago in Moscow, when she collapsed during the 200 final with a torn hamstring. Her brother, Wes, carried her off the track. Felix had big plans at those championships, too, possibly winning three medals — one in the 200, along with maybe two more in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. That many medals could be in play this time, too. She plans to run on both relay teams — if the coaching staff selects her, that is.

"We're getting our chemistry going," Felix said. "We're looking to put forth a really good team." □

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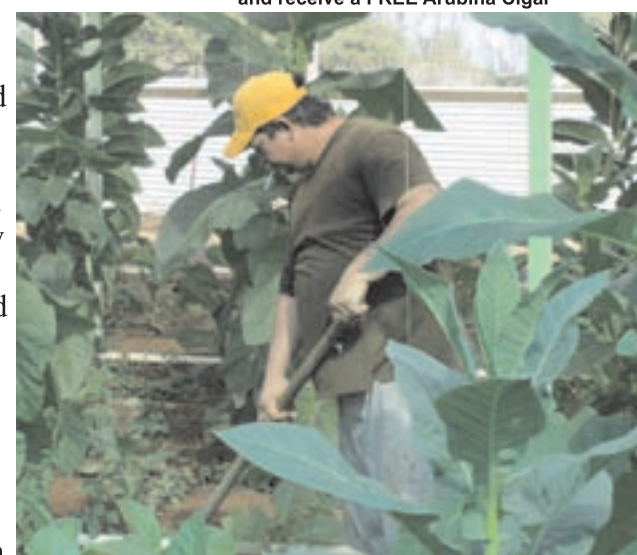


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Top-ranked Djokovic, Serena Williams reach Cincy semifinals



Andy Murray, of Britain, waves to the crowd after defeating Richard Gasquet, of France, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in a quarterfinal at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Novak Djokovic played his best match. Serena Williams? Well, she needed to pull a Serena to move on. Taking two different approaches, the top seeds at Cincinnati reached the semifinals on Friday, moving step closer to a title that's been tough for either of them to win. Djokovic beat fifth-seeded Stan Wawrinka 6-4, 6-1, knocking off the player who beat him for the French Open title. Williams followed on center court, struggled with her serve, and had to "pull a Serena" and rally from behind to beat Ana Ivanovic 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"It's like when you're down and maybe down a break in a set and a set, and you pull a Serena is when you come back and win," she said.

Third-seeded Andy Murray reached the semifinals by beating Richard Gasquet 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, his second straight three-set match. Djokovic has never won at Cincinnati, the only one of the nine ATP Masters events that has eluded him. He's trying to become the first to win all nine. Williams won the tourna-

ment for the first time on her sixth try last year, beating Ivanovic in the final. She lost in the semifinals at Toronto last week and is using her week in Cincinnati as a final tuneup for the U.S. Open, where she'll try to complete a rare Grand Slam sweep.

This one was ragged. Williams got only 46 percent of her first serves in play and had 36 unforced errors.

After dropping the first set, she fell behind 3-4 in the second set. At that point, she turned it around, breaking Ivanovic's serve five times while pulling away. "Usually there isn't a point where I'm like, 'Oh, I'm going to do this,' but today there definitely was," Williams said.

She dominated the last six games, advancing to a semifinal against 14th-seeded Elina Svitolina.

"Against top players, it's

not over until you shake the hand," Ivanovic said. "You have to fight for each point.

Especially Serena — every time she was down and her back against the wall, she came up with the best shots."

By contrast, Djokovic needed only 63 minutes to reach the semifinals, looking fresh throughout the match. He had only eight unforced errors to 27 for Wawrinka, who was coming off a long, three-tiebreaker win on Friday.

Djokovic has been bothered by a sore elbow that affected his serve. The elbow is better, and so was Djokovic's serve — 85 percent accuracy during the first set.

"It was the best performance I had so far this week," said Djokovic, who is 18-4 career against Wawrinka. "Came at the right time, against one

of my biggest rivals and the guy I lost to last time we played in the finals of French Open."

The two hadn't played since the French Open. At 4-4 in the first set, Djokovic broke Wawrinka and went on to win the next five games, taking command. "I think maybe I'm a little bit empty mentally to stay at my top," Wawrinka said. "I'm generally happy with

my tournament. I know where I am. There's a lot of positives to take from this week: Winning two tough matches without playing my best tennis, fighting, staying there."

Djokovic will play qualifier Alexandr Dolgoplov, who upset sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-2. He's the first qualifier to reach the semifinals in Cincinnati since 1994. □

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HITMAN AGENT 47
MON-THURS 8:40
FRI 8:40 | 11:15
SAT 8:40 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 8:40

ED HELMS | CHRISTINA APPLEGATE

VACATION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:20

HENRY CAVILL | ARMIE HAMMER

THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:30 | 12:05
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MON-THURS 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:25
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PAUL RUDD | MICHAEL DOUGLAS

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MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:15
FRI 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:45
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SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:15

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AL Capsules

Archer pitches 1-hitter, fans 11 as Rays beat Astros 1-0

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Archer pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a fifth-inning single by Colby Rasmus, and struck out 11 to lead the Tampa Bay Rays over the Houston Astros 1-0 Thursday night.

It was Archer's third career shutout and second against the Astros, having also blanked them in 2013. Archer (11-9) retired the final 15 batters, fanning five. Rasmus led off the fifth with a groundball single and was the last runner for the AL West leaders.

Desmond Jennings got two hits for Tampa Bay and drove in the lone run with a single in the fourth off Collin McHugh (13-7).



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Chris Archer throws to first base for the out on Houston Astros' Preston Tucker, left, in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015, in Houston. Archer pitched a one-hit complete game to beat the Astros 1-0.

Associated Press

TIGERS 4, RANGERS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Alfredo Simon threw a one-hitter in his first career complete game and Detroit topped Texas in a matchup of AL wild-card contenders. The Rangers' only hit came with two outs in the fifth when Rougned Odor doubled.

Simon (11-7) walked two and struck out five. He threw 116 pitches, three short of his career high.

Martin Perez (1-3) took the loss for Texas, giving up three runs, six hits and three walks.

INDIANS 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Tomlin had his second impressive start since returning from shoulder surgery. Cody Allen worked out of

his own jam in the ninth inning and Cleveland held off the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Tomlin (1-1) only allowed Alex Rodriguez's 680th career home run leading off the fourth and a double to Chase Headley in seven deliberate innings.

Allen gave up an RBI sin-

gle to Carlos Beltran, but retired Headley and Didi Gregorius with two runners on base for his 24th save. Lonnie Chisenhall hit an RBI double, and Michael Brantley — still limited to designated hitter because of a sore shoulder — and Jose Ramirez had RBI singles off Ivan Nova (5-5).

ROYALS 4, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP) — Wade Miley pitched into the eighth inning and Ryan Hanigan drove in two runs as Boston ended Kansas City's five-game winning streak. Miley (10-9) helped the Red Sox improve to 5-2 under bench coach Torey Lovullo, who took over when manager John Farrell announced that is being treated for cancer. Mookie Betts, Travis Shaw and Xander Bogaerts had two hits apiece for Boston. Junichi Tazawa pitched the ninth for his second save. Danny Duffy (6-6) gave up four runs on seven hits and two walks in five innings.

TWINS 15, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP) — Rookie Tyler Duffey took a shutout into the eighth inning, and the Twins beat struggling

Miguel Gonzalez and the Orioles on a soggy night at Camden Yards.

Kurt Suzuki and Eddie Rosario each had three hits and two RBIs, and Miguel Sano and Eduardo Escobar contributed home runs in helping Minnesota end a three-game skid. It was only the eighth win in 25 games for the Twins.

The Orioles hadn't allowed this many runs since July 16, 2012, when they gave up 19 to the Twins.

Duffey (2-1) coasted until the eighth, when he allowed two runs before being pulled with two outs. Duffey struck out eight, walked none and gave up 10 hits.

The game began at 9:36 p.m. ET following a rain delay of 2 hours, 31 minutes.

Gonzalez (9-9) gave up seven runs and eight hits in five innings.

WHITE SOX 8, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Jose Abreu capped a five-run fifth inning with a two-run double and the White Sox avoided a four-game sweep by the Angels.

Jose Quintana (7-10) allowed two runs and eight hits over six innings and escaped a bases-loaded jam in the third. The left-hander struck out three and walked two — marking the 15th consecutive start in which he gave up fewer than three bases on balls. Adam LaRoche capped the scoring with a two-run homer, helping the White Sox end a seven-game road losing streak and an eight-game victory drought at Angel Stadium. Minor league callup Nick Tropeano (1-2) gave up six runs and eight hits through 4 1-3 innings in his third spot start of the season. The right-hander retired only one of the seven batters he faced in the fifth, when Chicago snapped a 1-all tie. Until that inning, the White Sox were 1 for 21 in the series with runners in scoring position. □

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Experts: Deleted online information never actually goes away

BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Ashley Madison hack is a big reminder to all Web users: If you submit private data online, chances are it will never fully be deleted.

The hackers, who stole the data about a month ago and then posted it online this week, claimed in a statement that part of the reason for the theft was Ashley Madison's fraudulent promise to fully delete users' information if they paid the company a \$19 fee. The website — whose slogan is "Life is short. Have an affair" — is marketed to people looking for extramarital relationships. It purports to have about 39 million members.

The hackers said the company failed to delete the information, even though it collected the fees. Toronto-based Avid Life Media Inc., Ashley Madison's parent company, hasn't commented on the hackers' accusation. A company spokesman didn't respond to multiple emails seeking comment.

It's virtually impossible to exist in modern society without putting at least some personal information online. Many people can't get through a day without using the Internet to shop, pay a bill, or check their credit card balance.

People have become accustomed to trusting their most precious personal information to companies. But they also need to know that all of that information is being shared more than they would expect, privacy experts say.

Before you hit "submit," stop and think before giving up your personal information to any kind of website, said Michael Kaiser, executive director of the National Cyber Security Alliance, an industry-funded group that educates consumers about cybersecurity.

"Personal information is like money, and you don't just give away your money," Kaiser says. "In the environment we're in right now, you have to value it and

think about protecting it everywhere you go on the Internet."

That means taking a look at a website's business to get an idea of how much they value information security and even asking them about their data retention practices. Banks, which deal in financial informa-

tion or when Web browsers automatically fill in forms with their name, address and other details, says Peter Tyrrell, chief operating officer of the data security firm Digital Guardian. Meanwhile, worries about data theft and loss have prompted companies to back up important infor-

mation, isn't a credit card or consumer goods. The capital is personal information that if released could be ruinous personally, and financially too."

Breaches, whether they be at a major retailer such as Target Corp., a health insurance company such as Anthem Inc., or Ashley

Madison, have become so common that people should give some serious thought before putting personal information online, says Caleb Barlow, a vice president at IBM's security division.

And while Social Security numbers weren't involved in the Ashley Madison hack, people should be especially wary of using them as a backup password to access online information, given the potentially disastrous consequences that could result if they're intercepted, he says.

"Why are we using Social

Security Numbers for both

identification and access?" he questions. "Any data that can never be changed can be used for identity, but should never be used for access."

And no matter how legitimate a company or website may be, people need to be aware that they're



A June 10, 2015 photo from files showing Ashley Madison's Korean web site on a computer screen in Seoul, South Korea. U.S. government employees with sensitive jobs in national security or law enforcement were among hundreds of federal workers found to be using government networks to access and pay membership fees to the cheating website Ashley Madison, The Associated Press has learned. The list includes at least two assistant U.S. attorneys, an information technology administrator in the White House's support staff, a Justice Department investigator, a division chief, and a government hacker and counterterrorism employee at the Homeland Security Department. Others visited from networks operated by the Pentagon.

Associated Press

tion, and large retailers, who have a vested interest in getting people to shop online, are probably safer bets than a dating site.

"Ashley Madison actually charges you to remove your information when you remove your account," he says. "That's a big clue about how they feel about your personal information." People also need to sometimes take a pass on convenience in the name of online security.

Many consumers like it when e-commerce sites have their credit card and other information on file,

mation in multiple places. But both practices increase the likelihood that information could be leaked or shared. And it means that even when a person thinks that their information has been permanently deleted, chances are there are still copies floating around somewhere.

"Ashley Madison is a company with a service that's completely predicated on privacy," Tyrrell says, adding that that characteristic sets it apart from many traditional e-commerce sites such as retailers.

"Here the capital, so to

Madison, have become so common that people should give some serious thought before putting personal information online, says Caleb Barlow, a vice president at IBM's security division.

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"Why are we using Social

Security Numbers for both identification and access?" he questions. "Any data that can never be changed can be used for identity, but should never be used for access."

And no matter how legitimate a company or website may be, people need to be aware that they're rolling the dice every time they hand over personal information. Scott Vernick, partner and head of the data security and privacy practice at the law firm Fox Rothschild LLP, says consumers have the right to expect a certain level of online security, depending on the industry standards of the company they're dealing with.

"But those expectations have to be muted by the knowledge that they're always taking a risk, whether they're ordering from Amazon Prime or from Ashley Madison," Vernick says. □

Wall Street Tumbles on Global Slowdown Fears

BERNARD CONDON

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Growing concerns about a slow-

down in China shook mar-

kets around the world on

Friday, driving the U.S. stock

"Investors are wondering if growth isn't coming from the U.S. or China, where is it going to come from?" said Tim Courtney, CIO of Exen-

cial Wealth Advisors. "This is about growth."

By the time it was over, the

sign that flagging growth in world's second-largest economy could be worse than government reports suggest.

On Friday, they got more bad news: A private survey showed another drop

Zirin, head of investment strategy at UBS Wealth Management. "But there doesn't seem to be any signal that the weakness abroad is slipping into the U.S. economy."

Investors pointed to other reasons behind the recent sell-off, such as falling prices for oil and other commodities as well as the relatively high prices investors pay for U.S. stocks compared with corporate earnings.

"All of this is coming at a time when we haven't had a correction" in many years, Zirin said. The last correction occurred in October 2011.

Roberto Perli, head of global monetary policy research at Cornerstone Macro, said the market's recent slump likely means the Federal Reserve won't raise its benchmark interest rate at its September meeting. Fed officials gathering next month will have to weigh the global pressures against evidence of a solid U.S. job market and improving U.S. economic growth.

"They have the luxury of being able to wait and see what happens," Perli said. "But if the meeting was tomorrow, it's probably fair to say that they wouldn't tighten given all the turmoil in the global markets."

For all the markets' jitters, many economists say they remain confident that the U.S. economy is resilient enough to withstand a slowdown in the developing world. And Europe's economy appears to be emerging from its long slump. □

Barrel of US crude drops below \$40

NEW YORK (AP) — A barrel of U.S. crude oil fell below \$40 per barrel for the first time since the end of the global economic crisis.

Friday's fall, to \$39.86, was just the latest indicator of a vast shift in the energy landscape over the past year. U.S. Oil bounced back a bit to close down 87 cents at \$40.45, the lowest close since March 3, 2009.

The price of oil has fallen for eight consecutive weeks, the longest streak since 1986. Oil is down 34 percent from its high of \$61.43 this year, and 62 percent from its high of \$107.26 last year.

A boom in production has outpaced growth in global oil demand. The U.S. is churning out oil at a rate not seen in decades. Meanwhile, even with sharply lower prices, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations haven't cut production.

Production in the U.S. averaged 9.4 million barrels in the four weeks ending Aug. 14, up nearly 11 percent from a year ago, according to data released this week by the Energy Department. U.S. oil held in storage has reached levels not seen in at least 80 years. Meanwhile, OPEC production averaged 31.5 million barrels a day in July, a three-year high.

Adding to the downward pressure on oil prices is a steady drumbeat of economic data out of China suggesting that the world's second largest economy is slowing. Data released Friday showed a further contraction in China's manufacturing sector and it sent ripples through global stock markets.

The world's biggest oil producers are getting hit by falling prices and pessimism about China and other economies that have not recovered from the recession like the U.S. has. □



A screen above the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing numbers, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. The Dow Jones industrial average plunged more than 530 points and is in a correction amid a global sell-off sparked by fears about China's slowing economy. Oil tumbled below \$40 per barrel for the first time since the financial crisis.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

market to its biggest drop in nearly four years.

The rout started in Asia and quickly spread to Europe, battering major markets in Germany and France. In the U.S., the selling started early and never let up. Investors ditched beaten-down oil companies, as well as Netflix, Apple and other technology darlings. Oil plunged below \$40 for the first time since the financial crisis, and government bonds rallied as investors raced into hiding spots.

Standard and Poor's 500 index had lost 5.8 percent for the week, its worst weekly slump since 2011. That leaves the main benchmark for U.S. investments 7.7 percent below its all-time high -- within shooting range of what traders call a "correction," a 10 percent drop from a peak.

Markets began falling last week after China announced a surprise devaluation of its currency, the yuan. Investors have interpreted China's move as a

in manufacturing on the mainland.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 64.84 points, or 3.2 percent, to close at 1,970.89.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 530.94 points, or 3.1 percent, to 16,459.75. That's 10 percent off its high, a correction.

The Nasdaq slid 171.45 points, or 3.5 percent, to 4,706.04.

"Concerns about slowing growth in China are certainly valid," said Jeremy

Deere cutting outlook on weak farm, energy sales

NEW YORK (AP) — Deere & Co. on Friday cut its full-year outlook because it expects the weak agriculture and energy sectors to continue dragging down equipment sales.

The agricultural equipment manufacturer has been facing a downturn in equipment sales as weak commodity prices hold back farmers from buying new equipment. Meanwhile, a weak energy sector has

been dragging down construction equipment sales. The company's stock fell \$4.05, or 4.5 percent, to \$86.60 in premarket trading.

The Moline, Illinois-based company earned \$511.6 million, a 37 percent drop from the same period a year earlier. Earnings of \$1.53 per share surpassed Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of eight analysts surveyed by

Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$1.47 per share.

The company reported an 18 percent drop in revenue to \$6.84 billion in the period, which fell short of Street forecasts. Six analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$7.11 billion.

Deere reduced its outlook for 2015 net income to \$1.8 billion from \$1.9 billion.

Deere said industry sales for agricultural equipment in

the U.S. and Canada are forecast to be down about 25 percent for 2015. Worldwide sales of construction and forestry equipment are forecast to be down about 5 percent for the year.

Deere shares have risen 2.5 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has decreased 1 percent. The stock has climbed nearly 6 percent in the last 12 months. □

Eurozone economy resilient in face of Greece, survey shows

LONDON (AP) — The 19-country eurozone economy was resilient in the face of the recent crisis in Greece, which saw the country on the brink of a euro exit, a closely watched survey showed Friday. Financial information company Markit said its purchasing managers' index for the eurozone—a broad index of business activity

— rose to 54.1 points in August from 53.9 the previous month.

Anything above 50 means the economy is expanding. Markit estimates the economy to be growing at a quarterly rate of 0.4 percent, slightly ahead of the 0.3 percent recorded in the second quarter.

The increase was largely due to a pick-up in Germany, Europe's biggest

economy, and in some of the countries that have been at the forefront of the region's debt crisis over the past few years.

France, though, was a laggard once again.

Rob Dobson, senior economist at Markit, said the survey suggests that the eurozone is still experiencing "one of its best periods of economic growth and job creation" over the past

four years, "highlighting the resilience of the economy through last month's rollercoaster events of the Greek debt crisis and the ongoing negotiations to tie up the full details surrounding the third bailout."

In July, Greece's future in the euro currency was under threat until Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras backed a third international bailout

for the country. The final touches to the 86 billion-euro (\$93 billion) rescue deal were completed this week and the first funds arrived in Athens.

Now that the bailout has been completed, Tsipras has resigned ahead of likely elections next month, which he hopes will see him secure a mandate to push the reforms demanded by creditors. □

Japan's finance minister warns China on currency moves

ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said Friday that recent moves by China to allow its currency to depreciate are a concern and could pose problems for Tokyo.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index fell 3 percent to 19,435.83 on Friday, slipping below the psychological 20,000 mark on widespread selling. "Chinese factors are a big part of this, without a doubt," Aso said at a regular news briefing.

A further devaluation of the Chinese yuan could put Japan in a "tough spot," the Nikkei newspaper and other local media quoted Aso as saying.

It was unclear what sorts of choices Aso was implying Japan might face, but the Japanese currency, the yen, has fallen by over 60 percent against the U.S. dollar since hitting a peak of 75.35 yen to the dollar in October 2011. It was trading near 123 yen per dollar



A woman using a smartphone walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 plunged 2 percent in the morning session as Asian stocks fell further Friday after a survey showed Chinese manufacturing weakened this month.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

on Friday. The yen's decline has been hastened by massive monetary easing since 2013 by the Bank of Japan, which is buying trillions of yen in assets each month, seeking to spur growth.

China's decision to widen the trading band for the yuan, partly to make it more responsive to market forces, has raised fears that other countries will also allow their currencies to fall.

While most economists say such concerns are exaggerated, a few countries have followed China's lead. Kazakhstan's currency plunged by over 20 percent against the dollar

on Thursday after its government decided to move to a free float to cope with big swings in global currencies and commodity prices. Vietnam also allowed its currency, the dong, to weaken slightly.

The injection of massive amounts of cash into the Japanese economy drove the yen lower, while in turn boosting profits of major corporations that earn a large share of their revenue overseas — and pushing share prices higher.

The strategy is the backbone of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's effort to staunch deflation, or falling prices due to weak demand, and spur growth by persuading consumers and companies to spend more.

The yuan's decline against the U.S. dollar has had a limited direct impact on the value of the yen. But uncertainty over future policy and over the impact of China's economic slowdown is reverberating across global markets. □

Key Chinese manufacturing index falls to 77-month low

BEIJING (AP) — China's manufacturing contracted by an unexpectedly large margin this month, a survey showed Friday, adding to signs of economic weakness.

The preliminary version of the Caixin purchasing managers' index, formerly sponsored by HSBC Corp., fell to a 77-month low of 47.1 in August from July's 47.8 on a 100-point scale.

Numbers below 50 indicate a contraction. That was weaker than most analysts expected.

Output, new export orders and employment all declined at faster rates than in July. The preliminary figure is based on responses from 85 to 90 percent of companies surveyed for the index. "There is still pressure on the front of maintaining growth rates," said He Fan,

chief economist for Caixin Insight Group, a Chinese financial news publisher, in a statement. "The government needs to fine tune fiscal and monetary policies to ensure macroeconomic stability and speed up the structural reform."

China's economic growth held steady at 7 percent in the latest quarter ending in July, its weakest performance since the 2008

global crisis.

Retail sales growth has weakened and July exports fell by an unexpectedly large 8.3 percent.

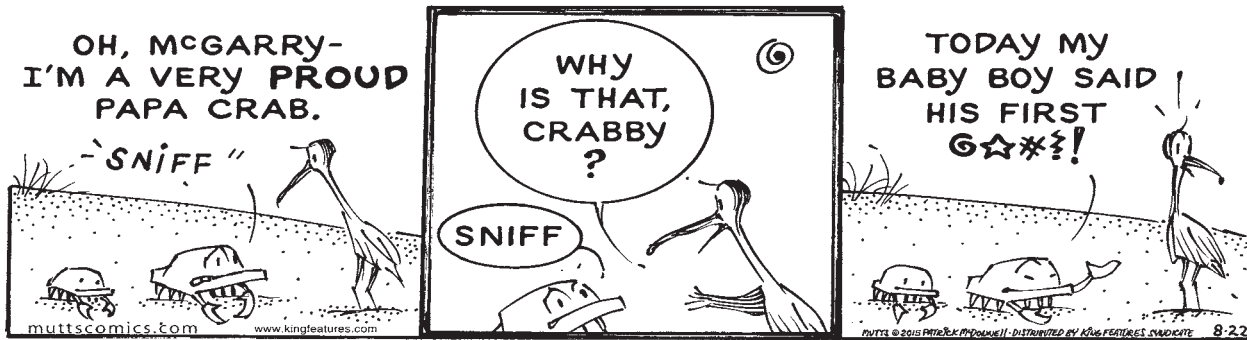
"The old style policy easing in the past three quarters haven't been felt by the real economy yet," said Citigroup economists Minggao Shen and Serena Wang in a report.

Chinese policymakers also have to contend with the

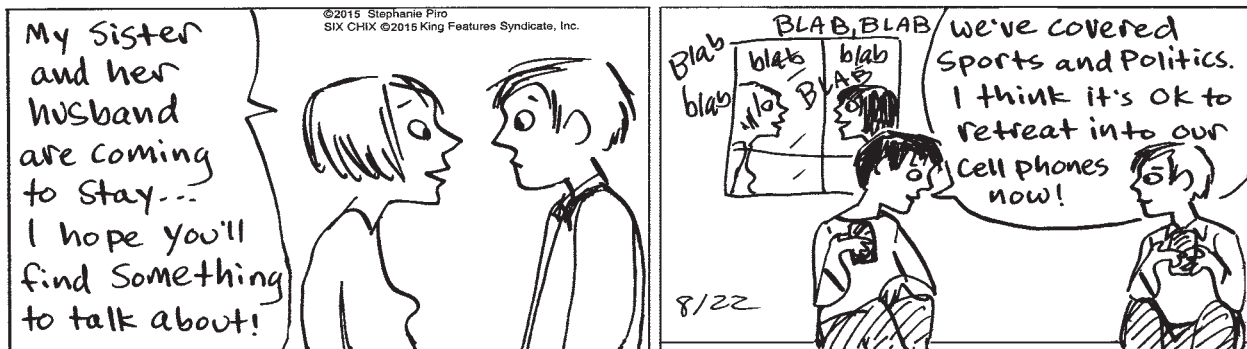
possibility of capital outflows caused by expectations of more devaluations of the yuan following last week's surprise change in exchange rate policy.

Shen and Wang said they expect Beijing to respond with two interest rate cuts in the next year and a reduction in minimum reserves banks are required to hold, a move that would free up more money for lending. □

Mutts



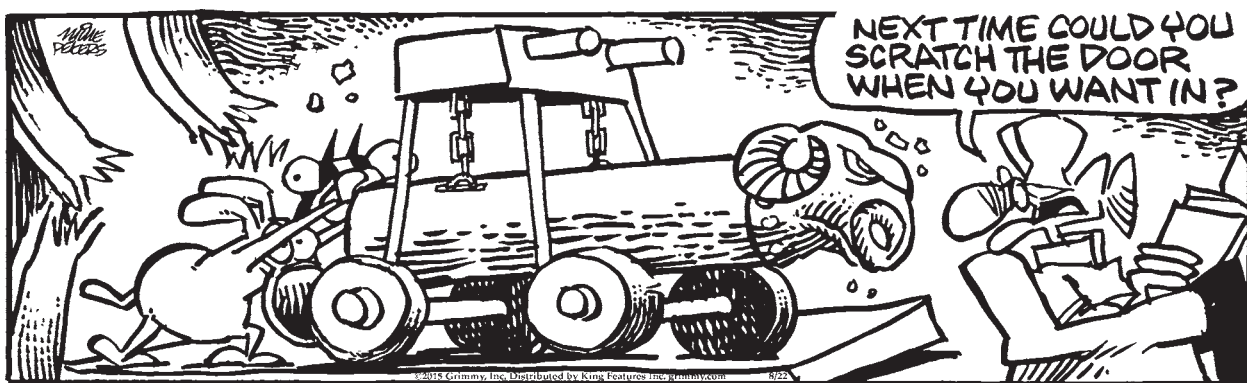
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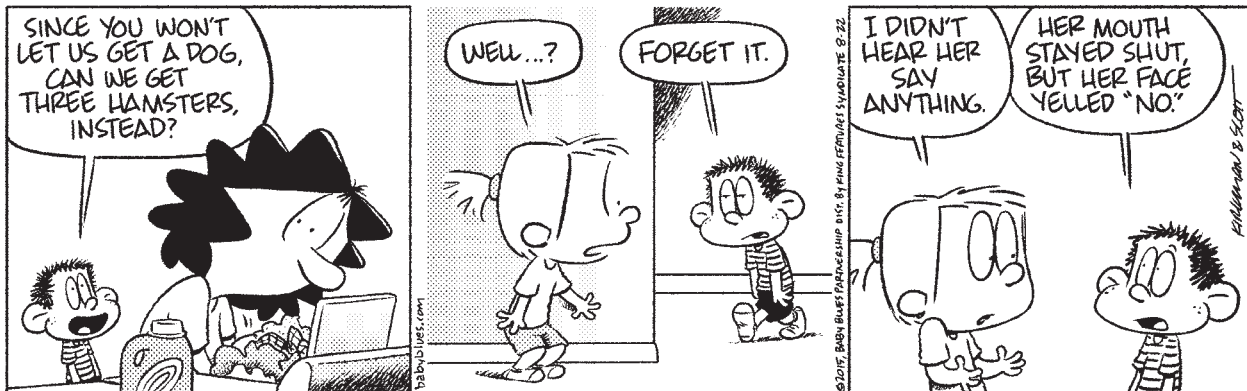
Blondie



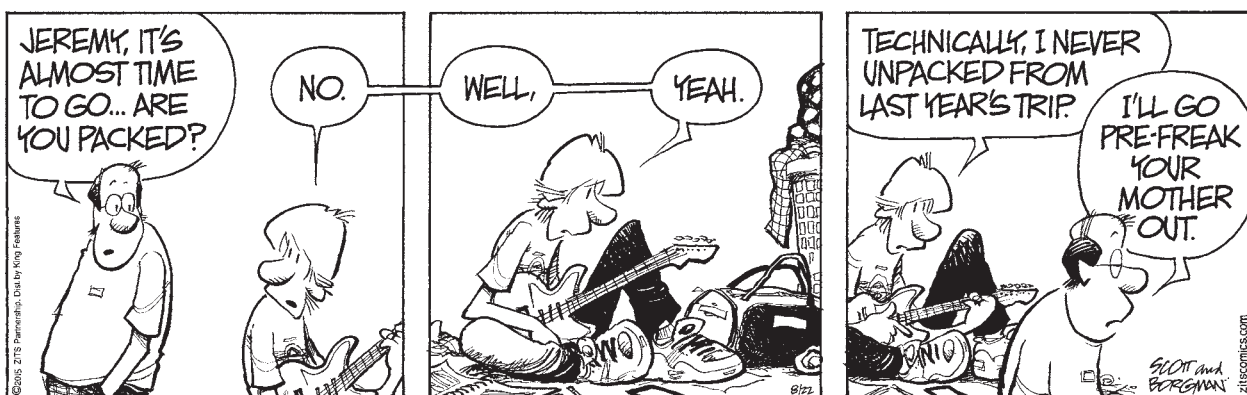
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	1		7	5		3	
	8			4		7	
5			2	3			1
	3			7		6	
2			4		9		3
	7			2		8	
	4		1		8	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/22

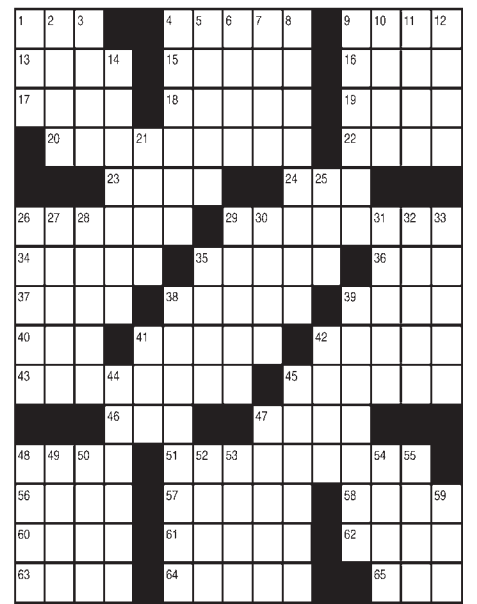
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	2	9	4	1	8	7	5	3
4	5	1	6	3	7	8	2	9
7	8	3	2	5	9	1	6	4
9	3	7	8	2	5	4	1	6
5	4	2	3	6	1	9	8	7
1	6	8	7	9	4	5	3	2
2	1	5	9	7	3	6	4	8
3	9	4	1	8	6	2	7	5
8	7	6	5	4	2	3	9	1

ACROSS

- Positive reply
- Charley horse, for example
- Glenched hand
- Gung ho
- Paddled boat
- Domini; A.D.
- "Kiss Me, _"; Broadway hit
- Moreno and Hayworth
- Flying saucers, for short
- Mariners
- Cattle
- Cuts off
- Go quickly
- Shopping flings
- Sweet talk
- Sightseeing trips
- over; faints
- Actress West
- Donation to charity
- Judge's mallet
- Couch
- Brief life sketch
- Stories
- Pitchers' gloves
- Wizard
- Least likely to be harmful
- a crack at; tried
- Shaker granules
- Long narrative
- Found; set up
- Treble _; musical symbol
- Unsuspecting
- Within reach
- Monster
- Father or grandfather
- Hurricane wind
- Woolen caps
- Marsh grasses
- Bagel topper



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/22/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

5	Twosomes	WAGER	SHAM	OVAl
6	Opening bet in poker	AWARE	IOtA	FARE
7	Fly high	NAVAL	GOES	FLIP
8	Soldier's dining room	EYESIGHT	CHEESE	
9	Tap		EVAS	POINTER
10	News, for short	HANDEL	TOTED	
11	Winter weather forecast	USA	SEARS	SEALS
12	Throw	BATS	SLITS	DUAL
14	Card distributors	SNOUT	LASER	SKI
21	Enemies		NOBEL	TESTED
25	"_ my party and I'll cry if I want to..."	HASBEEN	HUGE	
26	Punctures	ARMADA	SEPARATE	
27	FDR's affliction	BEAT	STAR	TIBIA
28	Bit of gossip	INCH	TAFT	TALES
29	High temperature	TAKE	SUEZ	ALERT
30	Pinky & Spike			
31	Shed crocodile tears			
32	Log floats			
33	Bread ingredient			
35	Hardy cabbage			

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8/22/15

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------------|
| 38 | One with a green thumb | 47 | Rescued |
| 39 | Putting through a sieve | 48 | Dundee fellow |
| 41 | Soothing drink | 49 | Pond growth |
| 42 | Shopping mart | 50 | Bacterium |
| 44 | Rubs enough to make sore | 52 | Store event |
| 45 | Curved swords | 53 | Laundry soap |
| | | 54 | Make airtight |
| | | 55 | Saint topper |
| | | 59 | Actor Harrison |

Taliban

Continued on Page 27

Earlier, Ghani had told Kabul-based ambassadors that Pakistan "has three options: freeze, deep freeze or hostility" if it failed to reign in the Taliban, according to three people who were present at the meeting, including two ambassadors. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

"We are at 'freeze'," said one of the ambassadors. "Relations could still go down — for instance, if there is a new bombing in Kabul."

The diplomat said that unless the Pakistanis "deliver what they are saying they are willing to do, to combat terrorism and extremism," Afghanistan's allies could ask the United States and the world to classify Pakistan as a provider of "sanctuary to terrorists."

Such a classification could lead to diplomatic and financial isolation for Pakistan and complicate its relationship with other part-

ners, like China, as well as global lenders and credit rating agencies.

Ghani's recent harsh rhetoric appeared to have been sparked by the apparent failure of a high-level delegation sent last week to Islamabad to work out an "action plan" for ending the war. The group returned empty-handed.

Earlier this year, Ghani sent Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif an eight-point proposal, extracts of which have been seen by The Associated Press, in which he said that both countries were engaged in an undeclared war. The letter also called on Islamabad show its commitment to peace by placing Taliban leaders under house arrest, withdrawing rights extended to Taliban figures — such as freedom of movement and access for fighters to medical care — and curtailing the activities of the Haqqani network, arguably one of the most brutal terror groups in the region.

Mostaghni, the Afghan spokesman, said Kabul is still hoping to receive a response to these points "very soon." □

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35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200
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STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
POLICE TIPLINE	11141
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	911

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San Nicolas: San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712

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TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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Study sees dying wildlife, bigger fires if drought lasts

ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The carcasses of salmon, trout and more than a dozen other newly extinct native species lie in dry streambeds around California.

Exhausted firefighters in the Sierra Nevada battle some of the biggest wildfires they've ever seen. And in Central Valley farm towns, more and more parents hear the squeal of empty pipes when they turn on water taps to cook dinner. A new report by the Public Policy Institute of California nonprofit think-tank paints that distressing picture of California for the next two years if the state's driest four years on record stretches further into the future.

Written by water and watershed experts working at the policy center, at the University of California, Davis, and elsewhere, the report urges California to do more now to deal with what researchers project to be the biggest drought crises of 2016 and 2017 — crashing wildlife populations, raging wildfires and more and more poor rural communities running out of water entirely.

A separate study published Thursday in the journal of the American Geophysical Union warns that climate change is making drought the new normal in California. By the 2060s, climate models show California in a condition of semi-permanent drought, broken only by short, hard rains, researchers said.

Already, higher temperatures from climate change have made the current drought at least 15 percent worse, they said.

So far, of all the sectors



This July 16, 2015 photo shows a dried-out stream at Horseshoe Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness of the Sierra Nevada near Lone Pine, Calif.

Associated Press

dealing with the current drought, California cities are doing relatively well thanks to the lessons of past droughts, researchers said in the analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California. Meanwhile, farms have been able to turn to pumping well water to make up for having half as much surface water for irrigation as normal.

With California wildlife, by contrast, "we're really looking at widespread crisis" if the drought continues, Ellen Hanak, director of the think-tank's water policy center, said in an interview Wednesday.

California's fresh-water habitats and forests, along with their wildlife, have experienced the most severe

impacts of the drought so far, the study concluded. Lack of water means 18 species of native California fish, including most native salmon and steelhead trout, face an immediate threat of going extinct in the wild, the report said. Greatly reduced water deliveries to bird refuges and rice fields — the flooding of which provides crucial habitat — means there is dangerously little room and food for the 5 million migratory birds that fly through the Central Valley each year and a high risk of deadly disease for the birds, the study said.

For California's environment, officials should be thinking more strategically about how best to use what

water is left for wildlife, and preparing "conservation hatcheries" to safeguard native fish species that are on the verge of extinction in the wild, it said.

Hanak also called wildfires a tremendous risk as overgrown forests dry in the drought. Fire and forest agencies already are working to reduce the overgrowth that contributes to making those fires bigger and harder to control, researchers said.

After the environment, rural communities have been hardest-hit by the drought, the study said. As of last month, more than 2,000 domestic wells were reported to have gone dry, mostly in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. More

than 100 small public-water systems around the state have been cited as needing emergency water supplies.

State and federal efforts to help those communities have been increasing but remain stop-gap, the study concluded. It urges the state to do more to track areas in need of help and come up with longer-term water supplies to replace wells that have likely gone dry for good.

The study advises against counting on El Nino, a sporadic weather pattern that can bring strong storms, to break the drought. State water officials similarly have tried to temper public hopes for a wet El Nino year. □

Patrick Stewart flexes his comedy muscle in 'Blunt Talk'

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patrick Stewart never really considered himself a funny guy.

After commanding a starship and a team of mutants in sci-fi and superhero franchises, Stewart's newest mission is starring in his first-ever TV comedy. With his role in Starz' "Blunt Talk" as naughty newsman Walter Blunt, the classically trained theater actor is discovering at age 75 that he can make folks laugh.

"It's a fairly recent development," Stewart said earlier this summer on the show's set during a break from filming a scene with guest star Jason Schwartzman. "When I first worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company, I started in what's called 'low comedy' roles, like Touchstone, Grumio and Lancelot. Then, something happened, and I was only playing deeply disturbed kings and neurotics. I never really went back."

While he's best known as Professor Charles Xavier and Captain Jean-Luc Picard from the "X-Men" and "Star Trek" series, Stewart has spent more of his



This photo provided by Starz Entertainment, LLC shows, Patrick Stewart as Walter Blunt, in a scene from "Blunt Talk. The show debuts Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015, at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Starz.

Associated Press

career onstage than in the X-Mansion or on the USS Enterprise. Besides playing everyone from Claudius to Macbeth, he's performed a one-man rendition of "A Christmas Carol" and finished a West End and Broadway run last year of Harold Pinter's "No Man's Land" and Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" with buddy Ian McKellen.

"It's no different," said Stewart. "It's just a lot more fun. I was talking about this with Jason. The fundamentals don't change because going for truth, realism and spontaneity is all still the objective, but now it's also about going for humor. I've found the more serious you play the words from the script, the funnier they can become, so to

my relief, it works."

In "Blunt Talk," which debuts Saturday (9 p.m. EDT), Stewart plays a cheeky Falklands War veteran and host of a cable news show. In the first episode, the booze-and-cocaine-loving anchorman is caught in a car with a prostitute and attempts to rehabilitate his image by interviewing himself. "Walter wants to

change the world, but his private life is a complete disaster," said Stewart. "That's where a lot of the humor comes from in the show. How can he possibly balance his journalistic passions and keep his life in somewhat reasonable order?" The series was created by Seth MacFarlane, who worked with Stewart on "Family Guy" and "American Dad," and Jonathan Ames, who created the HBO comedy "Bored to Death." Ames collaboratively fashioned the role of Blunt with Stewart.

"I wrote this show for Patrick Stewart and created the character for him. It was the actor first, then the character. It began with how he looked. Patrick Stewart has always played leaders and heroes. I wanted to make Walter Bunt a hero but a confused hero, a Don Quixote," he said.

During a visit to the show's newsroom set, Stewart was downright giddy as he observed Schwartzman improvising at the end of each take while they were filming a scene where Blunt meets Schwartzman's eco-activist character for the first time. □

Lily Tomlin isn't buying her own hype

NICOLE EVATT

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At 75, Lily Tomlin is loving the roles coming her way, but not necessarily the spotlight.

Tomlin stars in the upcoming indie film "Grandma" and recently scored her first lead actress Emmy nomination for her hit Netflix series.

"Well, it's kind of uncomfortable in the fact that everybody in our show 'Grace and Frankie' is so good," said Tomlin of her nomination. "Everybody is great about it and they tease me about it. So that's good."

The veteran comedian teams with Jane Fonda for the streaming series about two friends starting

over after finding out their husbands are in love with each other.

Tomlin relished the chance to break new ground in an industry obsessed with youth.

"That's what we wanted to do ... to show (older) women, to show our sexuality, to show our resourcefulness, our resilience to bounce back and start over again," she said. "'Grandma' does the same thing."

In the film, out Friday, Tomlin stars as an irreverent grandma road tripping around Los Angeles to rustle up cash for her teenage granddaughter's abortion. Sam Elliott plays Tomlin's ex-husband in "Grandma" and joins her for season two of "Grace and Frankie,"

where he'll play Fonda's old flame.

"It's a treat," said Elliott, 71, of working with Tomlin. "I think that we do a real disservice to ourselves and certainly to the audience when we think that these older people, it's time to put them out to pasture rather than embracing what they may have picked up along the way." Dolly Parton recently expressed interest in reuniting with her "9 to 5" co-stars on "Grace and Frankie."

Tomlin said the timing simply isn't right — yet.

"Dolly's a wonderful person and we've been friends with her ever since '9 to 5,' all three of us," said Tomlin. "We just want to get 'Grace and Frankie' more



In this Wednesday, June 10, 2015 file photo, Lily Tomlin, a cast member in "Grandma," poses at the premiere of the film on the opening night of the Los Angeles Film Festival

Associated Press

established before we venture into something like that. ... We don't have any definite plans right now, but it's always in the backs of our minds."

Though Tomlin is quick to downplay her recent successes, she joked that she's finally starting to believe

the hype.

"It probably seems larger to other people on the outside because I'm sort of always working, thinking about what I'm doing. But I keep reading about what a year it's been for me. You've finally convinced me." □

Jake Johnson on "Digging for Fire" and batting sixth

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This story begins with a rusty gun, a license plate and a bone of unknown origin.

A few years ago, a half dozen blocks from the hip Silver Lake wine-tasting shop where Jake Johnson is enjoying a glass of Pinot Noir, he and his wife dug up the makings of a mystery novel in the backyard of their rented house.

His neighbors weren't surprised and the police weren't concerned. So he called a bunch of buddies and went digging.

The experience "freaked him out" for a long time, he said with wide-eyed intensity, perched against the bar in a loose-fitting Sriracha T-shirt.

"What happens to someone who thinks there's a dead body in their backyard?" asked Johnson. "I wanted to tell that story."

It's one of those too-weird-to-be-true tales that's made even more bizarre by the fact that the stylish Silver Lake enclave of Los Angeles seems like the last place you might unearth guns and bones.

He's able to laugh about it now, having used the experience as the metaphorical bones for a largely improvised indie movie, "Digging for Fire," out in limited



This photo provided by The Orchard shows Jake Johnson as Tim in a scene from the film, "Digging for Fire." The movie releases in U.S. theaters on Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

release Friday and on VOD Aug. 25. The buried objects serve as a catalyst for a funny and poignant character study about a married couple and their young kid, who try on an upgraded life while house-sitting for friends in LA.

Johnson's character becomes obsessed; his wife (Rosemarie DeWitt) would rather not deal with it.

It's his second movie with indie director Joe Swanberg. They met through Lizzy Caplan, who Johnson knew from the Fox sitcom "New Girl," where Johnson

plays curmudgeonly but kind Nick Miller.

Caplan was working with Swanberg to develop the 2013 film "Drinking Buddies," a beer-soaked relationship study set in Chicago. Johnson wanted to spend the summer in his hometown, but needed convincing.

"(Swanberg) told me he could make a movie in 16 days — we'd have a couple IPAs on set and it'd be really fun, really easy and it'd be good. I told him he sounded like a car salesman," said Johnson, paus-

ing to ask the bartender what makes the rosé pink, without losing his train of thought.

"I said, 'I'm a super nice guy until I'm not. If we get there and you pull the rug out, we'll be enemies forever. But if it's real, I'm your guy forever.' It was real."

Johnson's a bit of an anomaly in Hollywood. After struggling for years, his cast role on "New Girl" has allowed him the financial freedom to be choosy about how he spends his time, and, most importantly, who with. Simply, he wants to work with friends. He'd just spoken to his agent about this on the way to the wine tasting.

"I'd rather have less work and less fame, celeb-

rity and money than not have a lot of fun working. If I don't know somebody, or people who I like and respect don't vouch for them, I'm probably not going to do the project," he said.

So Johnson sticks with his friends, including Max Winkler, who he has a production company with, and his "Jurassic World" director, Colin Trevorrow, who Johnson met while he was an out-of-work actor and Trevorrow was a struggling writer.

So far, it's working.

"He's who I think of when I picture a guy in one of my movies. He sets the tone and sets the bar for what I'm looking for in a performer," said Swanberg.

For "Digging for Fire," they developed the story via texting, borrowed "Ed Wood" screenwriter Larry Karaszewski's LA home and called around to their local buddies to see who might be interested.

Over the 13-day shoot, Jenny Slate and Timothy Simons showed up for a few hours, Sam Rockwell put in a couple of days, Chris Messina decided his character should take his pants off, Anna Kendrick did (fake) cocaine, and Orlando Bloom dropped by, even though he wasn't scheduled, to better understand the whole improvised experiment. Sam Elliott, Judith Light, Brie Larson, Ron Livingston and Melanie Lynskey are also in the cast. □

Actress Megan Fox files for divorce from Brian Austin Green

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Megan Fox has filed for divorce from actor Brian Austin Green after five years of marriage.

The "Transformers" star cited irreconcilable differences for the breakup.

The pair has two sons together, and the 29-year-old actress is seeking joint custody.

Fox and Green began dating in 2004 and married in 2010. She listed June 15 as their date of separation, and her filing indicates they do not have a prenuptial agreement.

The 42-year-old Green starred on the television



In this Jan. 13, 2013 file photo, Megan Fox, left, and Brian Austin Green arrive at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

series "Beverly Hills, 90210" and appeared on the FX series "Anger Management."

Fox starred in 2014's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" movie and its upcoming sequel. □

Dr. Dre issues statement apologizing to 'women I've hurt'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dr. Dre has issued a statement to the New York Times apologizing to "the women I've hurt" without specifically acknowledging the reason for the apology.

The 50-year-old music mogul says in comments published Friday on the New York Times website that he "deeply regret(s) what I did and know that it has

forever impacted all of our lives." Dre pleaded no contest to criminal battery charges following allegations he violently attacked journalist Dee Barnes in 1991. Barnes published a story online this week about the assault. Other women, including Dre's former girlfriend Michel'le, have also claimed he was violent toward them. □

Popular foods taking on new hues without artificial dyes

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Mozzarella cheese at Panera restaurants won't be as glaringly white. Banana peppers in Subway sandwiches won't be the same exact shade of yellow. Trix cereal will have two fewer colors.

Food makers are purging their products of artificial dyes as people increasingly eschew anything in their food they don't feel is natural. But replicating the vivid colors Americans expect with ingredients like beets and carrots isn't always easy.

In fact, General Mills couldn't find good alternatives for the blue and green pieces in Trix, so the company is getting rid of those colors when the cereal is reformulated later this year. The red pieces — which will be colored with radishes and strawberries — will also look different.

"We haven't been able to get that same vibrant color," said Kate Gallagher, General Mills' cereal developer.

The shift away from artificial dyes represents the latest chapter for food coloring in the U.S., which has had a rocky history. As recently as 1950, the Food and Drug Administration said children became sick after eating an orange Halloween candy that contained a dye. The agency eventually whittled down its list of approved color additives after finding several had caused "serious adverse effects."

Now, more companies say they are replacing artificial dyes with colors made from fruits, vegetables and spices, which are widely considered "natural," although the FDA doesn't classify them that way. But these present more challenges than artificial dyes. In addition to costing more, colors from fruits and vegetables can be sensitive to heat and acidity. And since they're used in higher doses to achieve boldness, tweaks to other parts of recipes may be



In this photo from July 29, 2015, a berry pork sausage and chips, all colored with plant-based natural food coloring, is presented at the GNT offices in Tarrytown, N.Y. Associated Press

needed. Such adjustments can be tricky for companies that manufacture on massive scales.

Still, companies want to court people like Heather Thalwitzer, a 31-year-old

a friend's party.

"I'll let him have the birthday cake," she said. "But I'll cringe."

THE EVOLUTION OF NATURAL



In this photo from July 29, 2015, a beaker filled spirulina extract is used to make a blue color at the offices of GNT in Tarrytown, N.Y. Associated Press

homemaker in Melbourne, Florida. Thalwitzer avoids artificial colors because she wants her 6-year-old son to eat quality food and she said red dye has been linked to "mania." She has tried alternatives like naturally colored sprinkles from Whole Foods, which her husband thinks taste like fish. But she can get along without such products. One year, she made cupcakes topped with a single blueberry for her son's birthday. There are times when Thalwitzer makes exceptions, such as when her son is at

Part of the challenge with colors from natural sources is that the range of hues has been limited. Blues, for instance, weren't widely available the U.S. until 2013. That's when the FDA approved a petition by candy maker Mars Inc. to use spirulina extract as coloring in gum and candy. The alga can now also be used in ice creams, drink mixes and other products. "That was a big thing for us," said Stefan Hake, CEO of the U.S. division of natural color maker GNT. At the company's office in Tarrytown, N.Y., Hake

demonstrated how to get blue from spirulina by pouring a liquefied version of it through a coffee filter to isolate the right color

might be another crayon in the crayon box," said Steve Morris, Sensient's general manager of food colors for North America. Sensient also developed a "deodorizing process" to remove flavors from ingredients. That allowed it to introduce an orange for beverages made from paprika.

Morris declined to detail the company's process. But since the ingredient is not "fundamentally changing the form," he said the ingredients are still within FDA guidelines of permissible color sources. Sensient said three-quarters of its new projects for clients in North America involve natural colors. Globally, its sales of colors — natural and synthetic — comes to about \$300 million.

COLORING INSIDE THE LINES



In this photo from July 29, 2015, Christina Olivarez, GNT corporate executive chef, prepares to add a plant-based natural food coloring to ice cream at the GNT offices in Tarrytown, N.Y. Associated Press

components.

The approval of spirulina extract also opened up the world of greens, which can be made by mixing blue and yellow. It turns out plants like spinach brown in heat and aren't ideal for coloring. Getting approval for a new color source can take years, but it's one way companies can fill out their palette of natural hues. In coming weeks, an industry group plans to submit a petition to use the carthamus in safflower for yellow, according to color maker Sensient Technologies. "It's just one more that

There are seven synthetic colors approved for broad use in foods. But these dyes can be mixed to create a wide range of colors. The colors are made by synthesizing raw materials from petroleum, according to the FDA. Synthetic colors still dominate in the U.S., but some cite a study linking them to hyperactivity in children in calling for them to be phased out. Lisa Lefferts at the Center for Science in the Public Interest also says artificial colors can be used in deceptive ways. "They mask the absence of ingredients," she said. □

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